LUPIN III
THE THIRD

THICK AS THIEVES

THE CLASSIC MANGA BY MONKEY PUNCH

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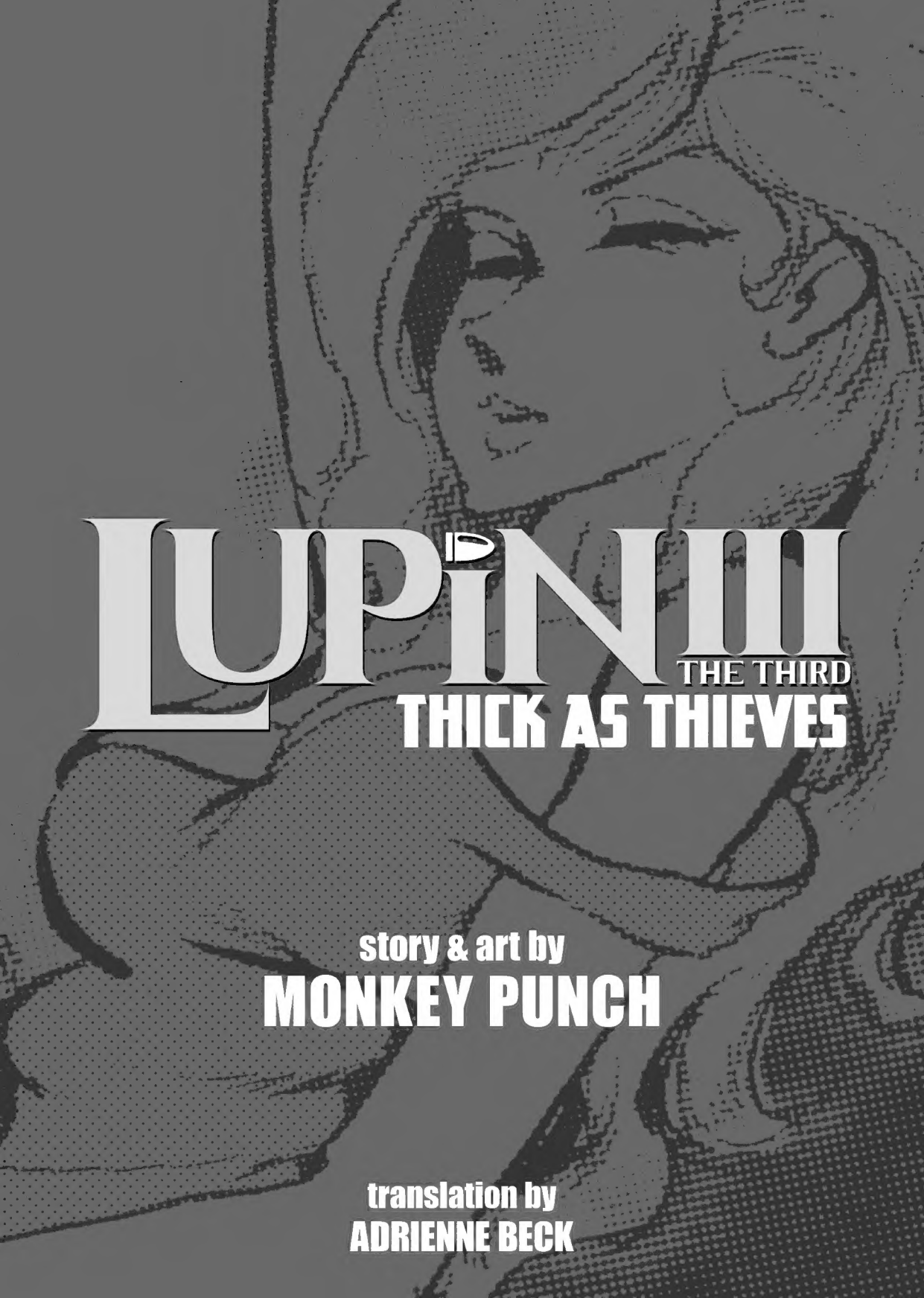

LUPIN III
THE THIRD
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story & art by
MONKEY PUNCH

translation by
ADRIENNE BECK

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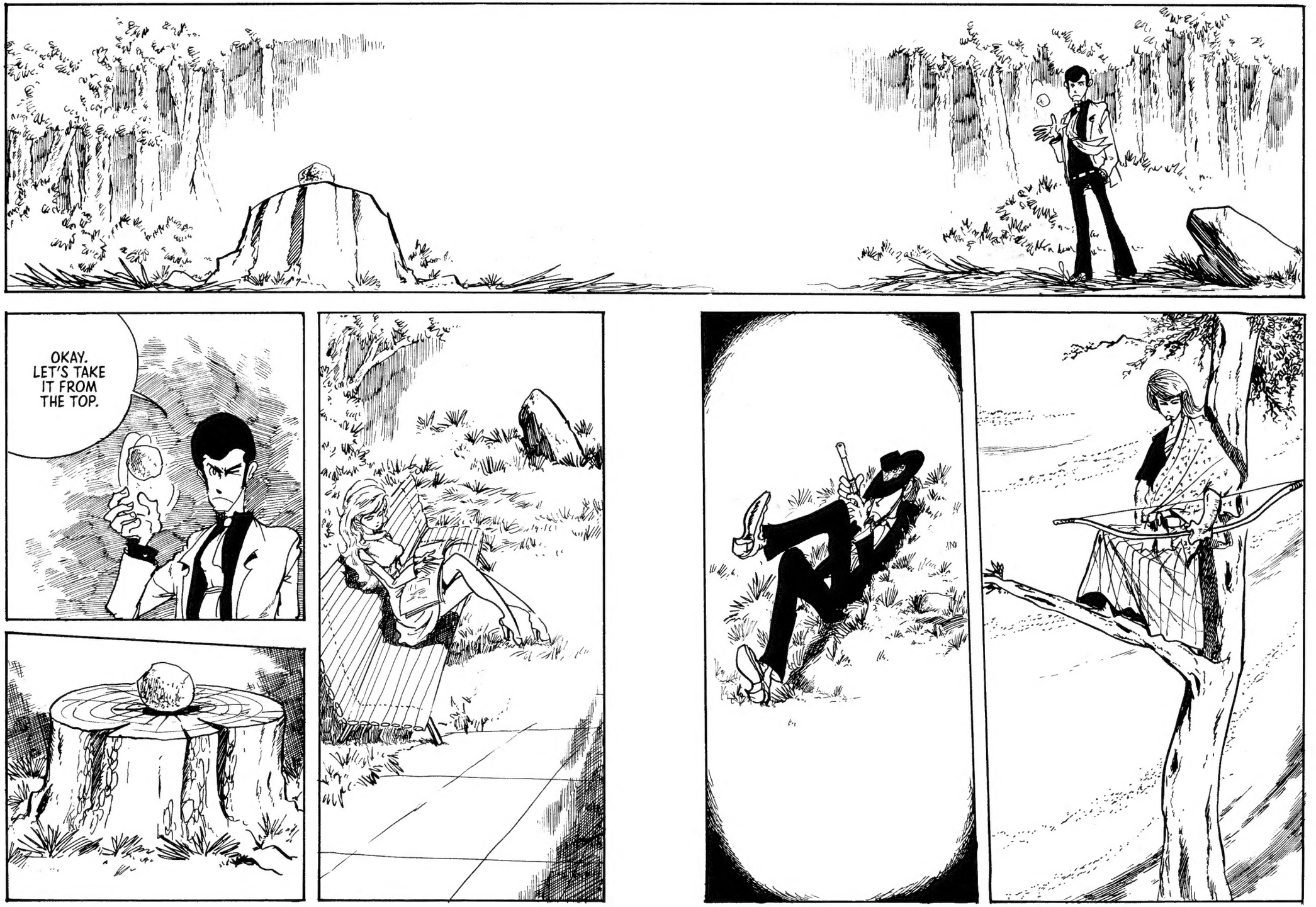
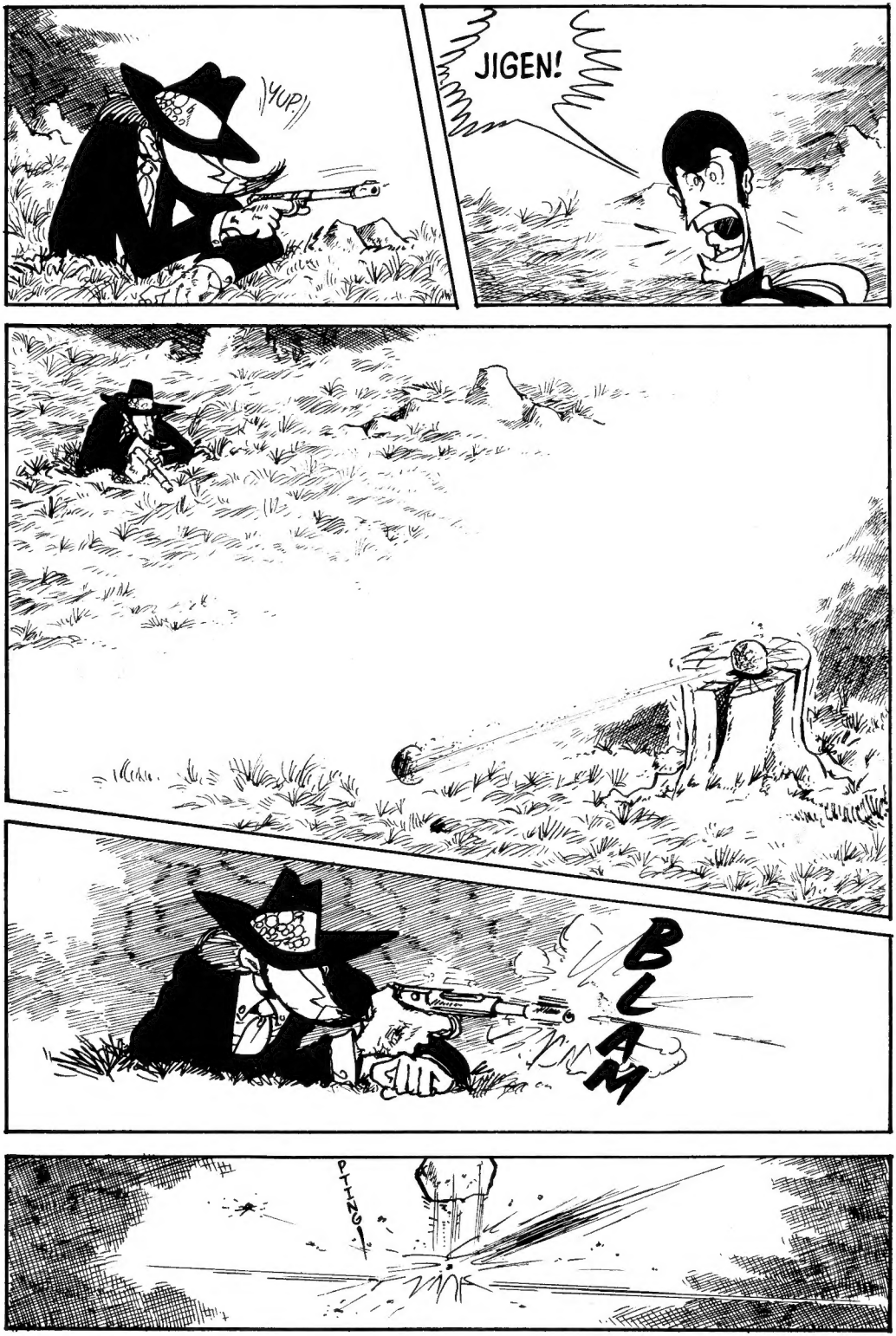
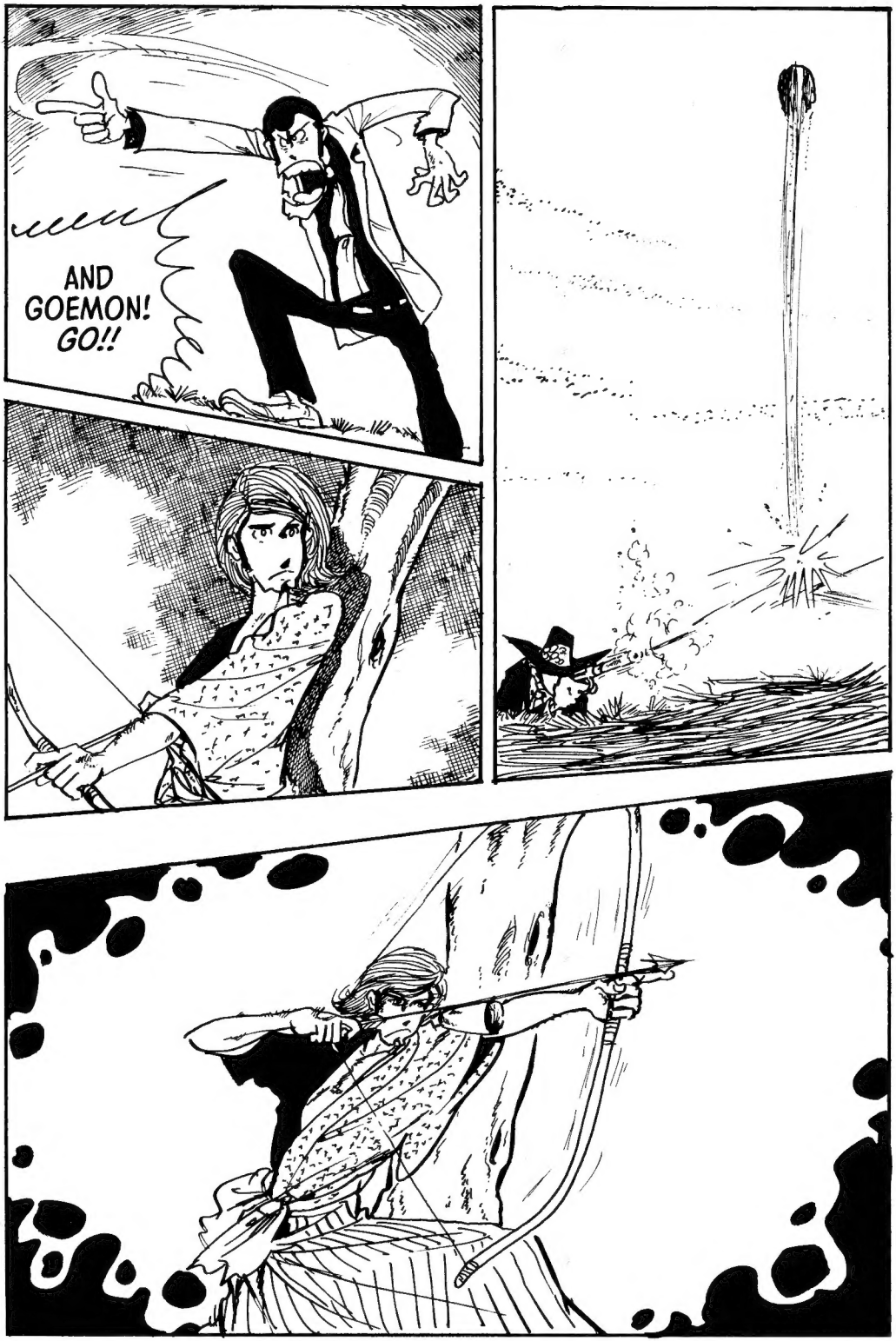
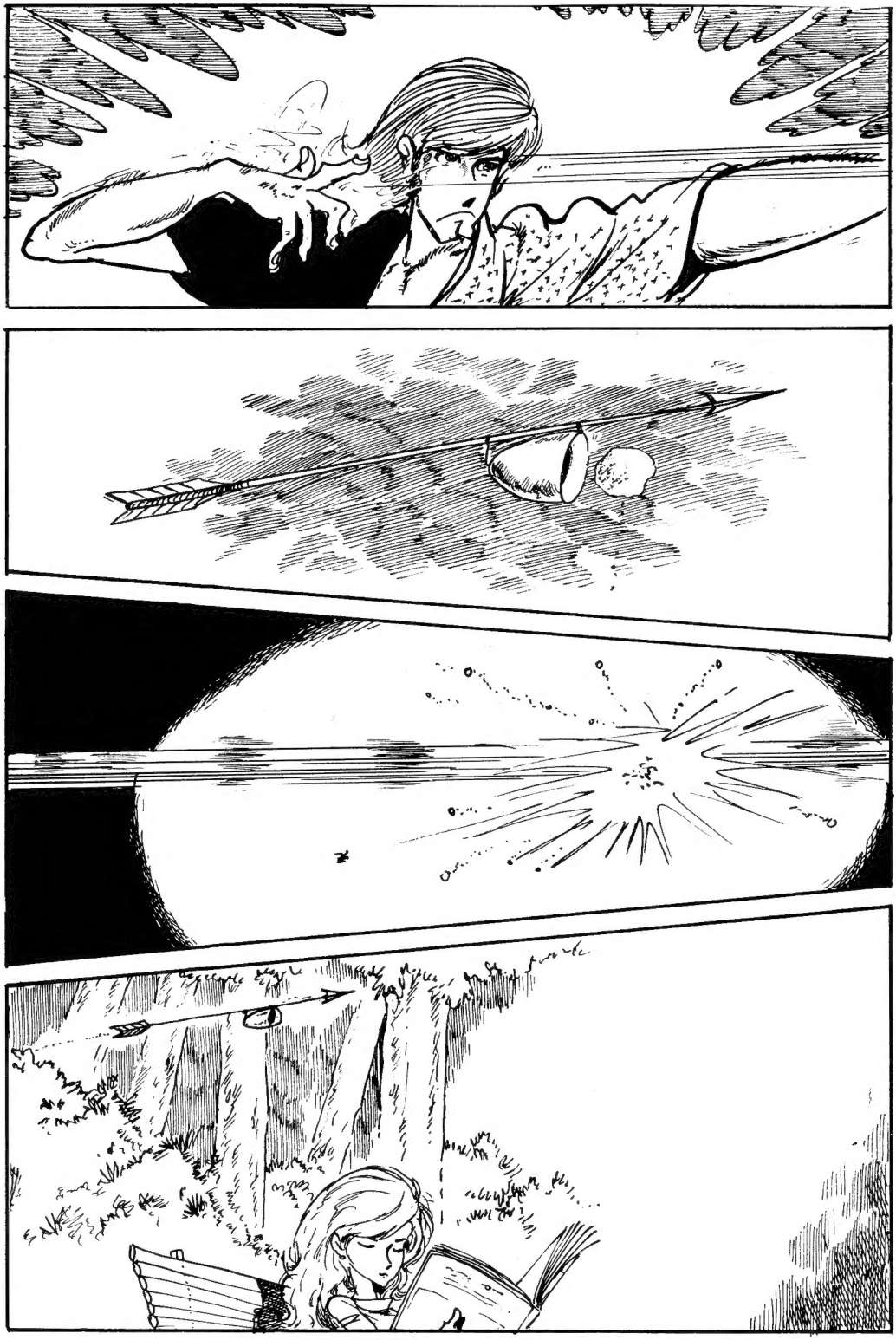
Skip the 3, 4 Deaths, Rehearse on 5

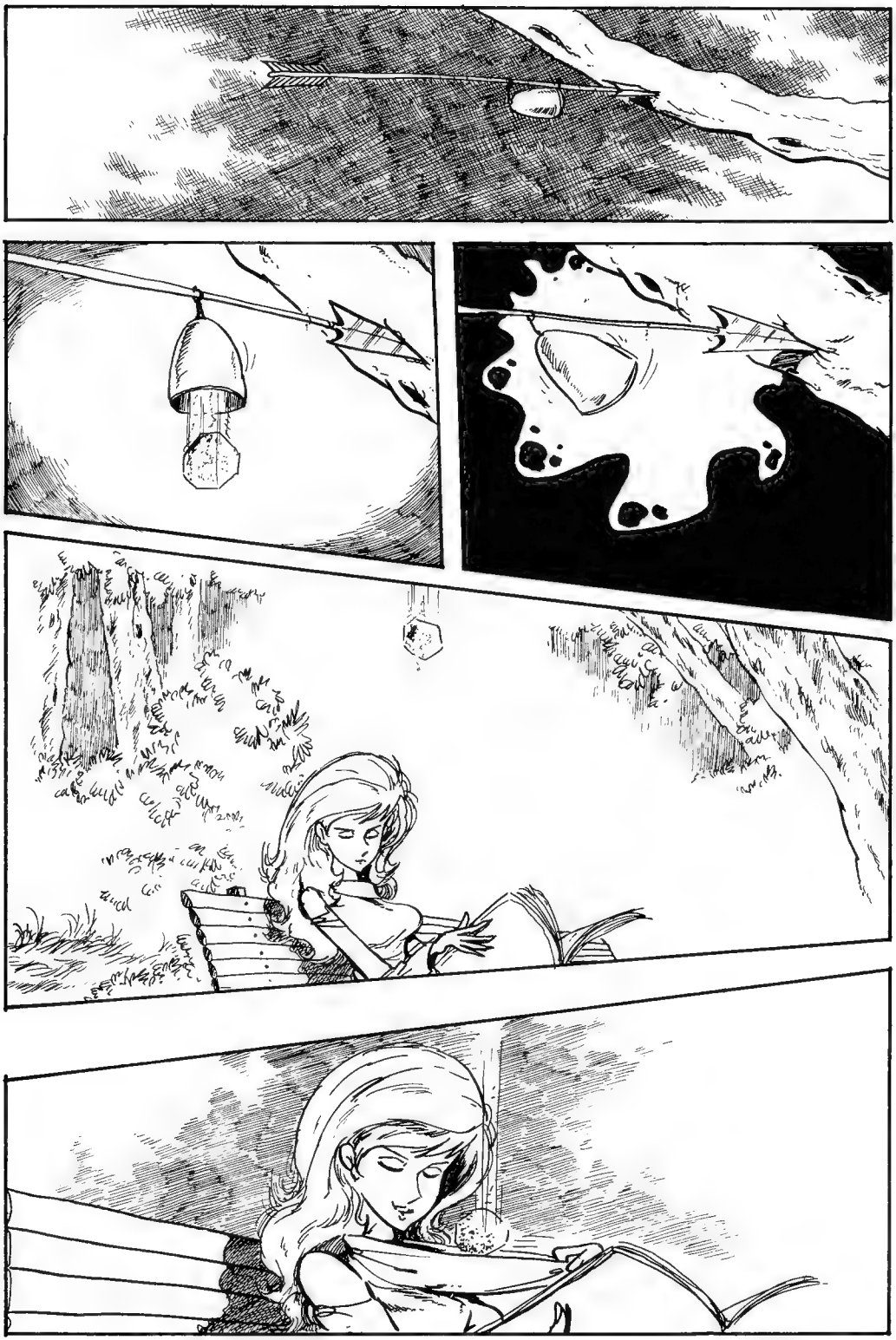

OKAY. LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE TOP.

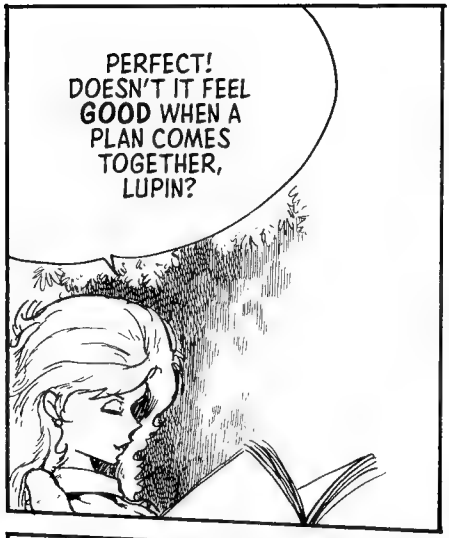
EVERYONE, REMEMBER YOUR ROLES. NO SLIP-UPS.
GO!
THAAK


YUP.
JIGEN!
BLAM
PTHZO!

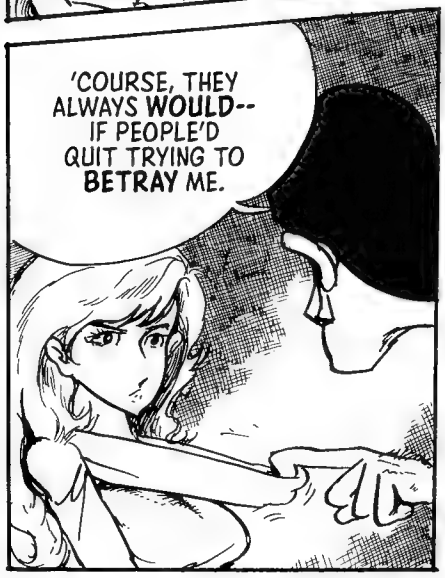

AND GOEMON! GO!!
SHAP

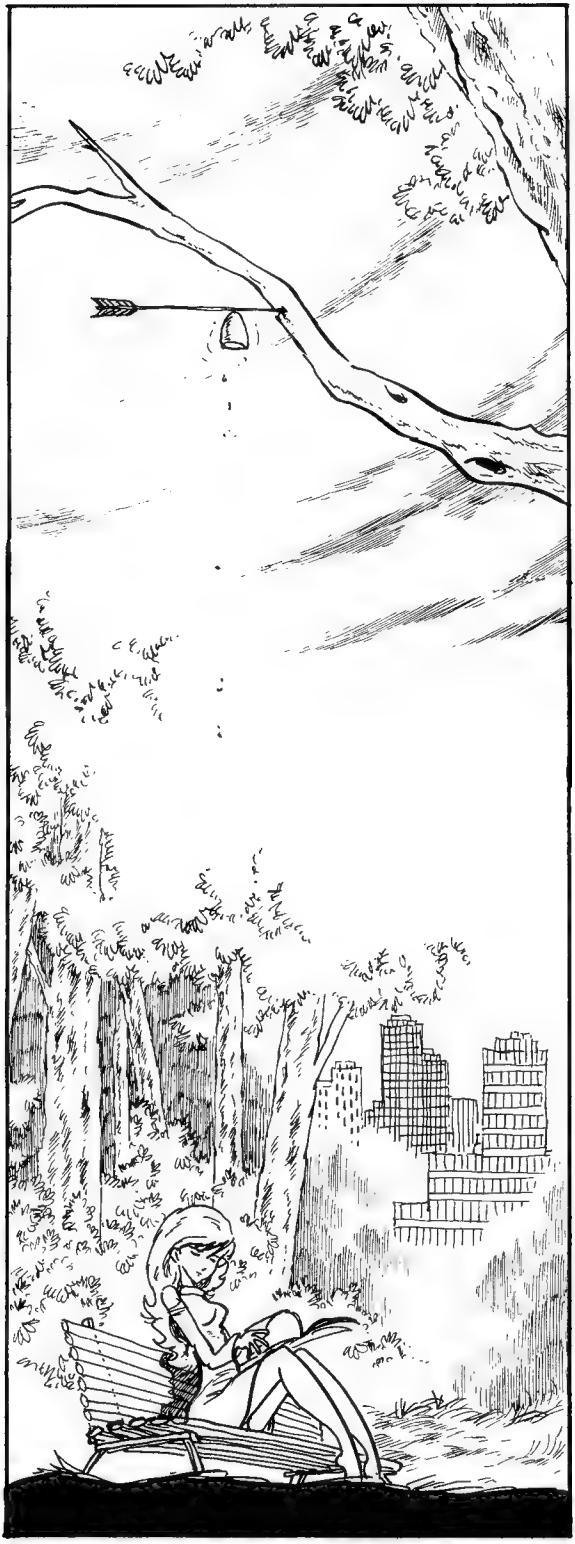


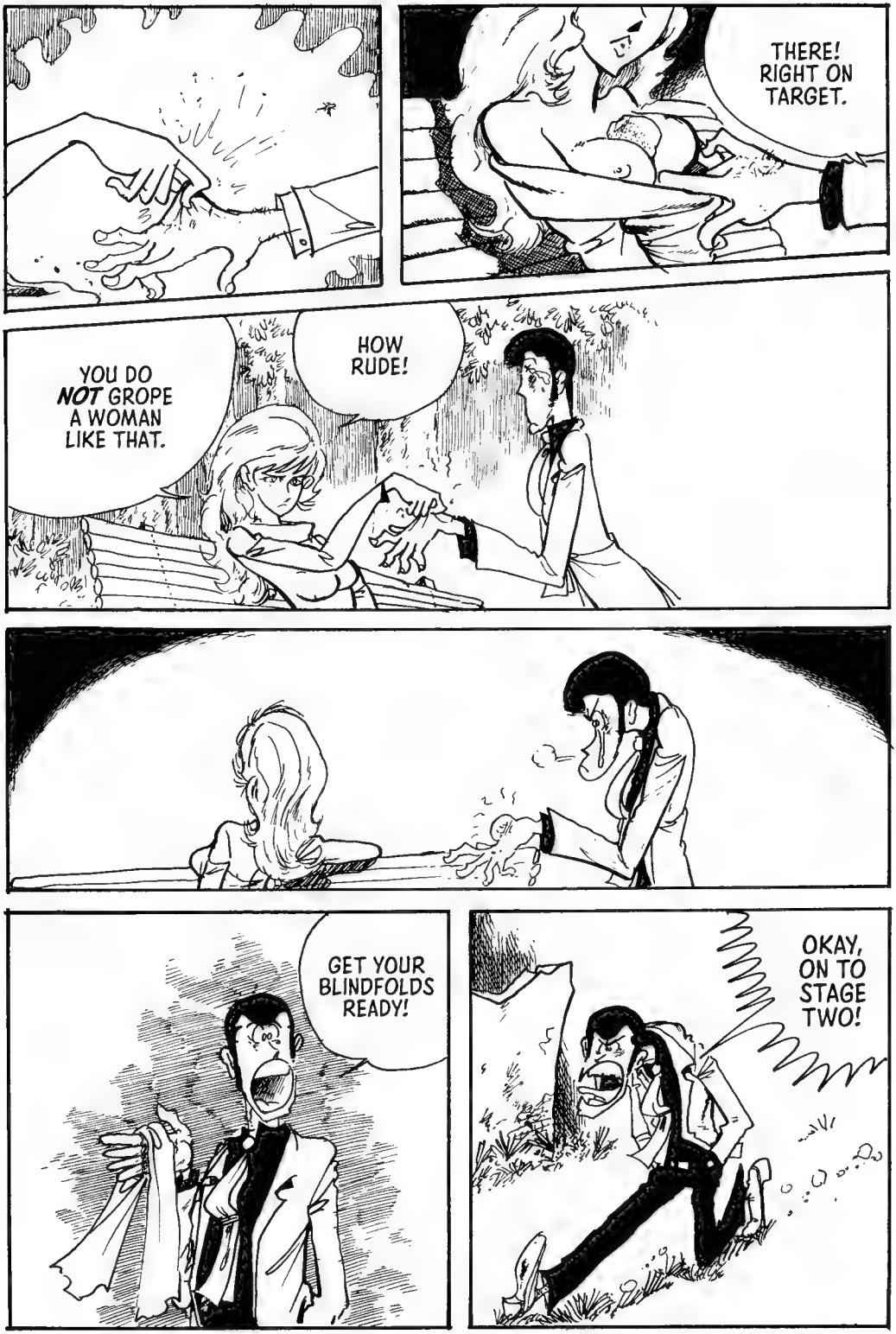



PERFECT! DOESN'T IT FEEL **GOOD** WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER, LUPIN?

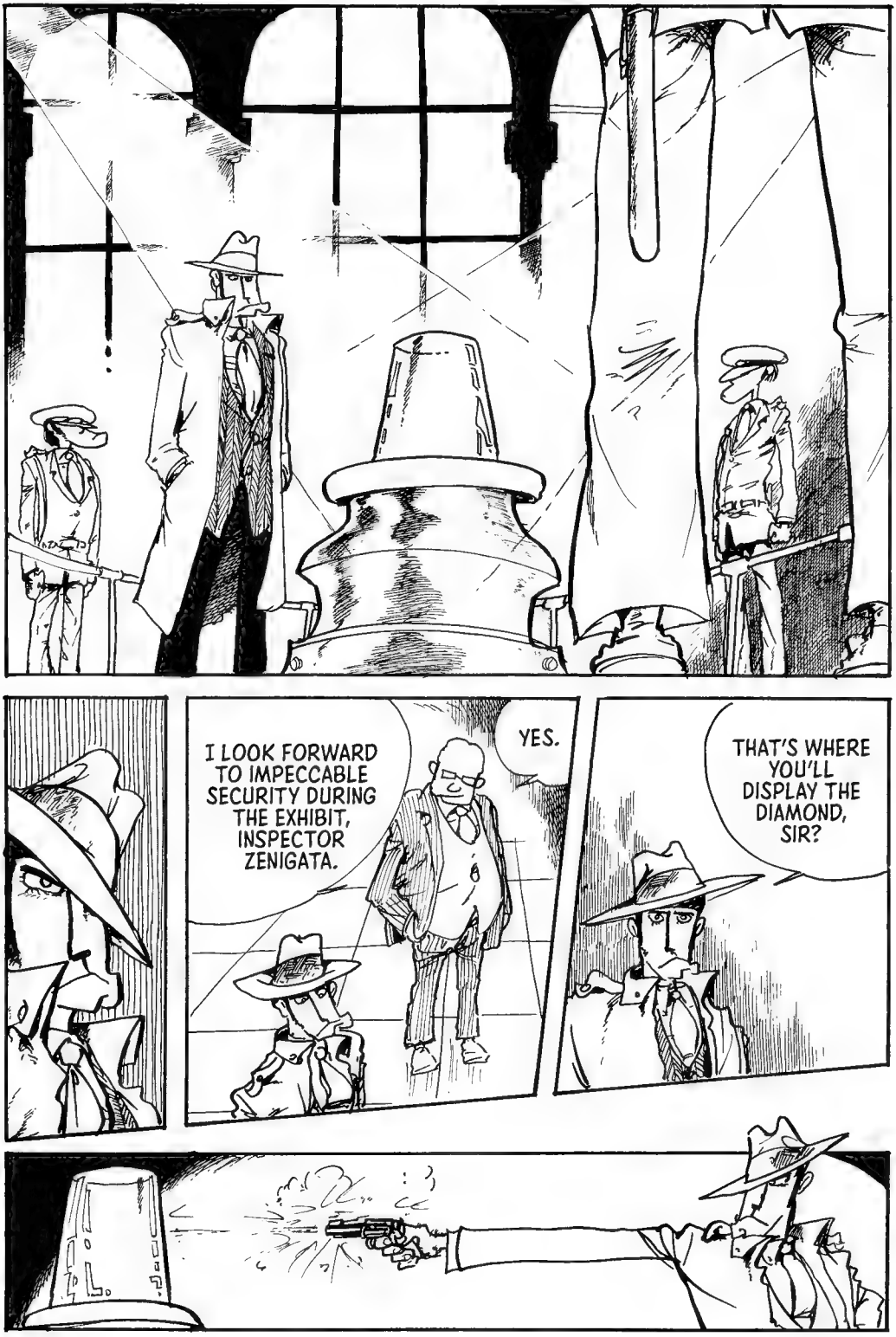
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! I WISH THINGS WOULD GO SO SMOOTHLY EVERY TIME, FUJIKO MINE.

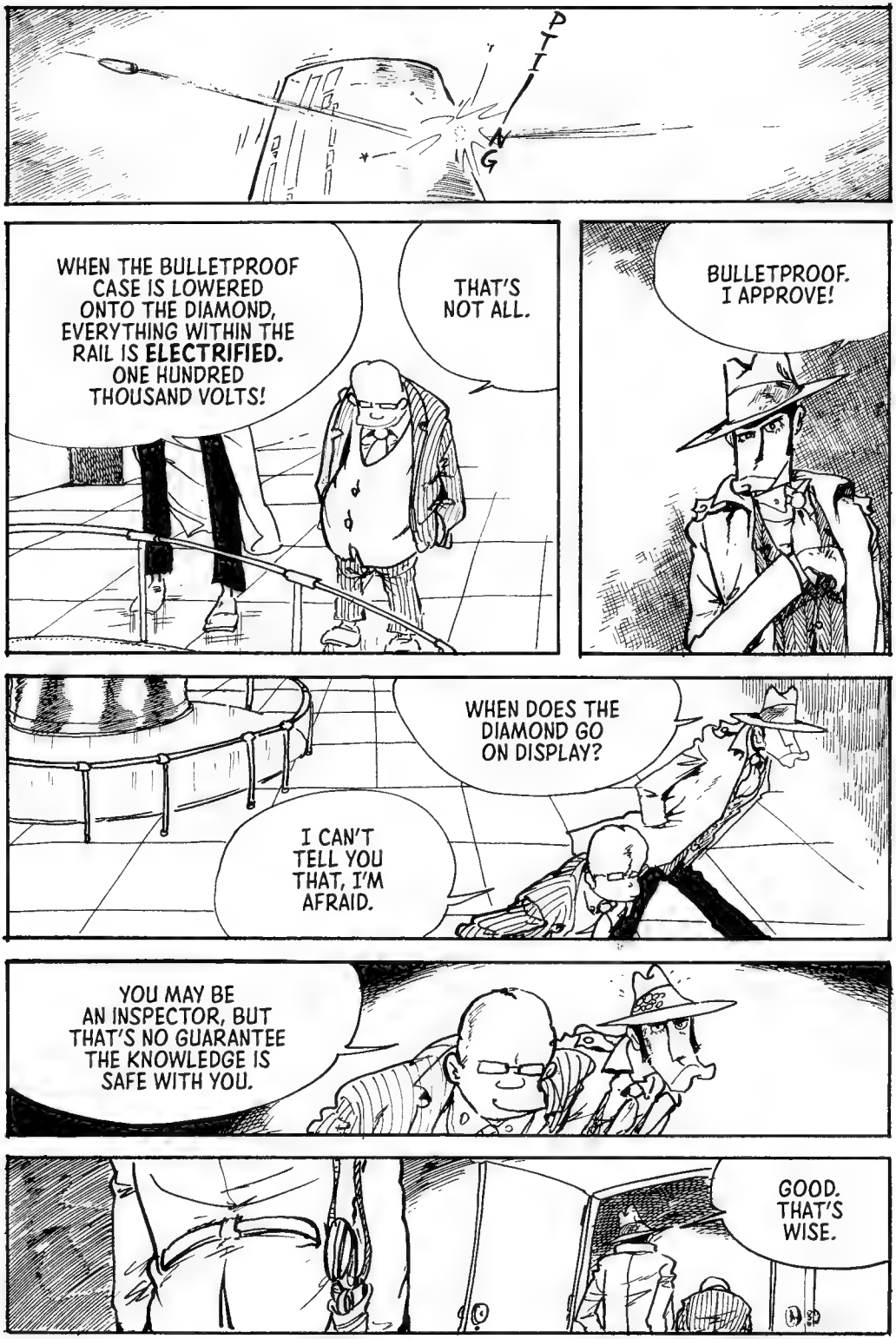

'COURSE, THEY ALWAYS **WOULD**-- IF PEOPLE'D QUIT TRYING TO **BETRAY** ME.

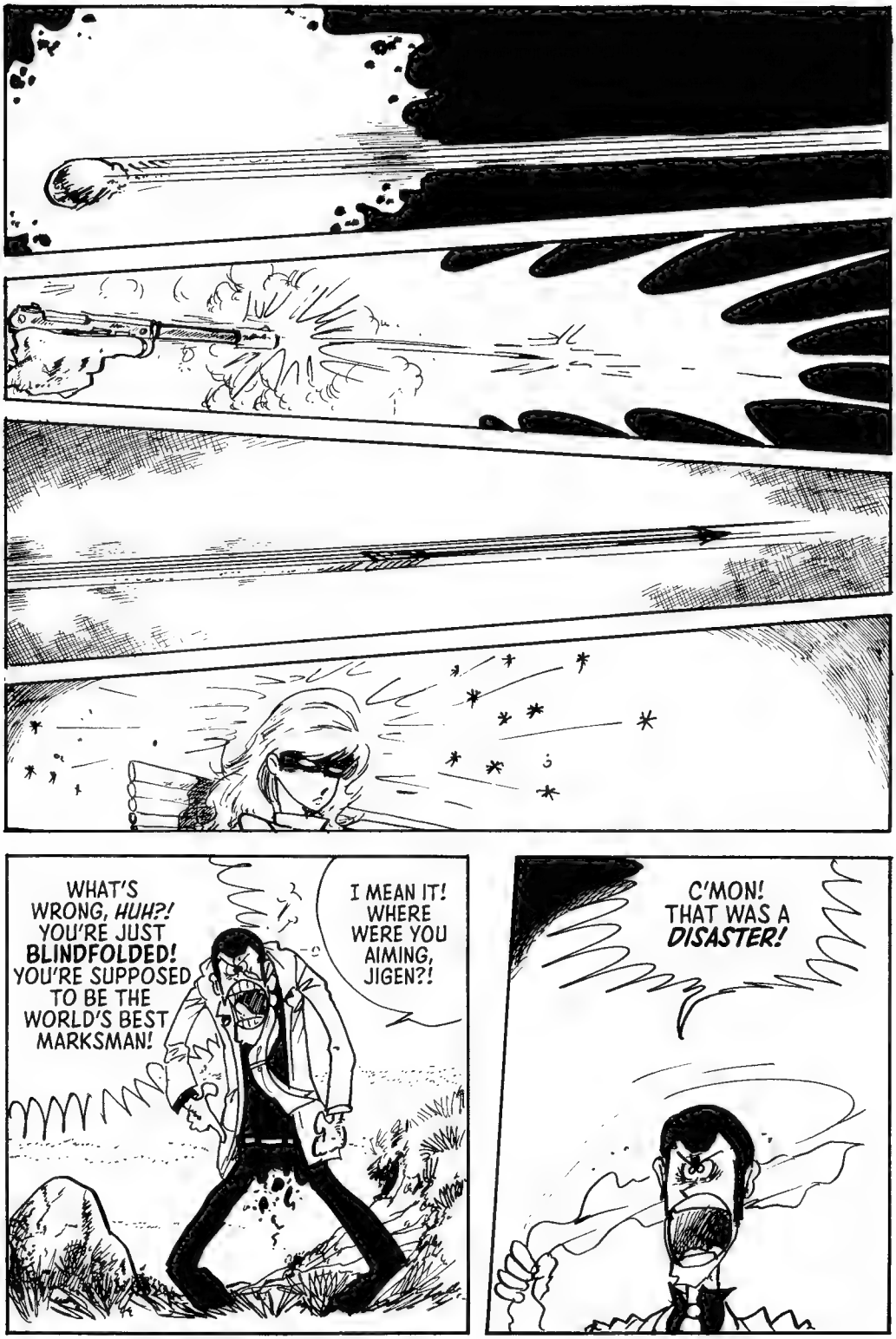


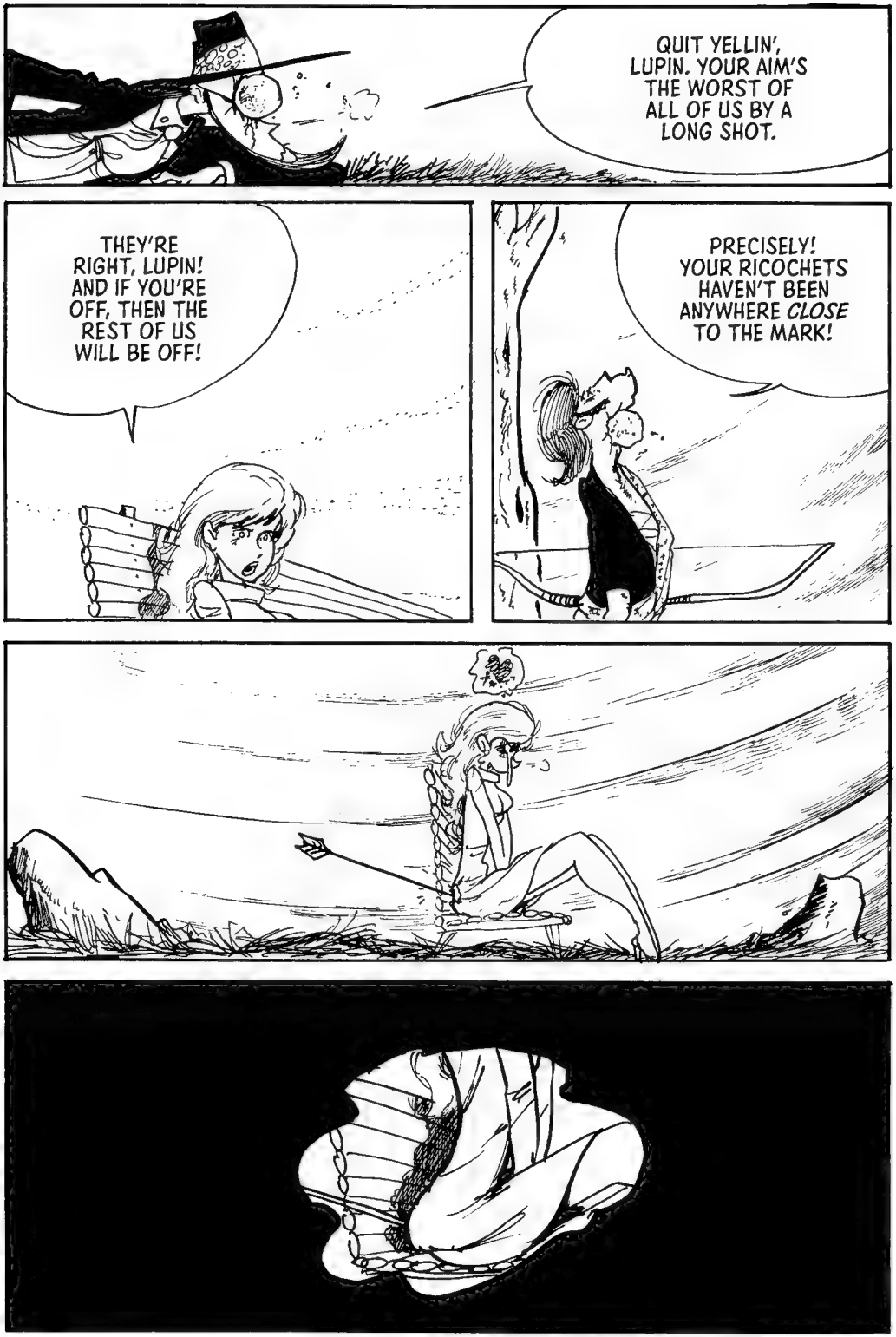

THERE! RIGHT ON TARGET.
HOW RUDE!
YOU DO *NOT* GROPE A WOMAN LIKE THAT.
GET YOUR BLINDFOLDS READY!
OKAY, ON TO STAGE TWO!

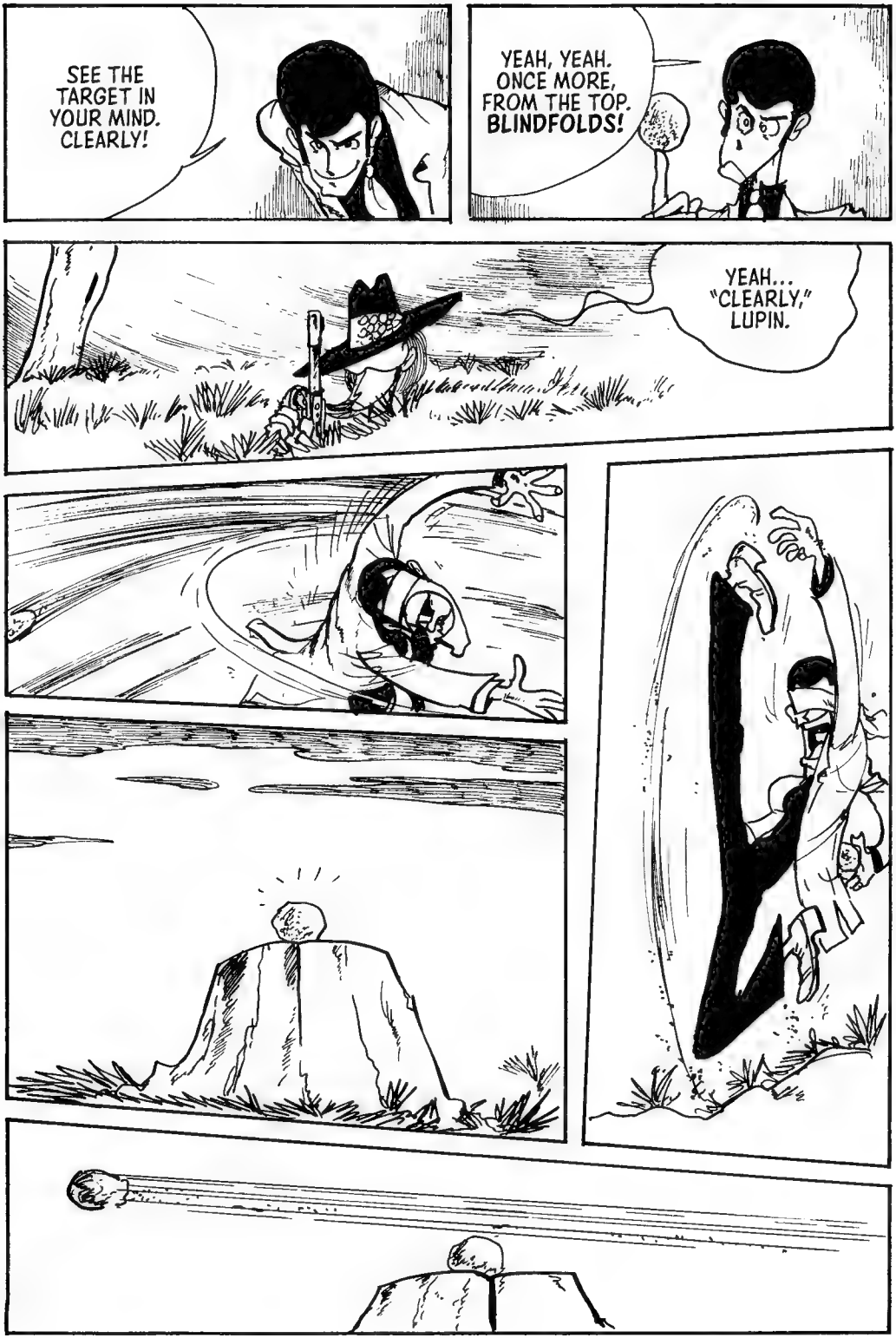
HERE I GOOO!
THAT'S OUR CHANCE.
IT'LL GO PITCH BLACK FOR ONLY THREE SECONDS.

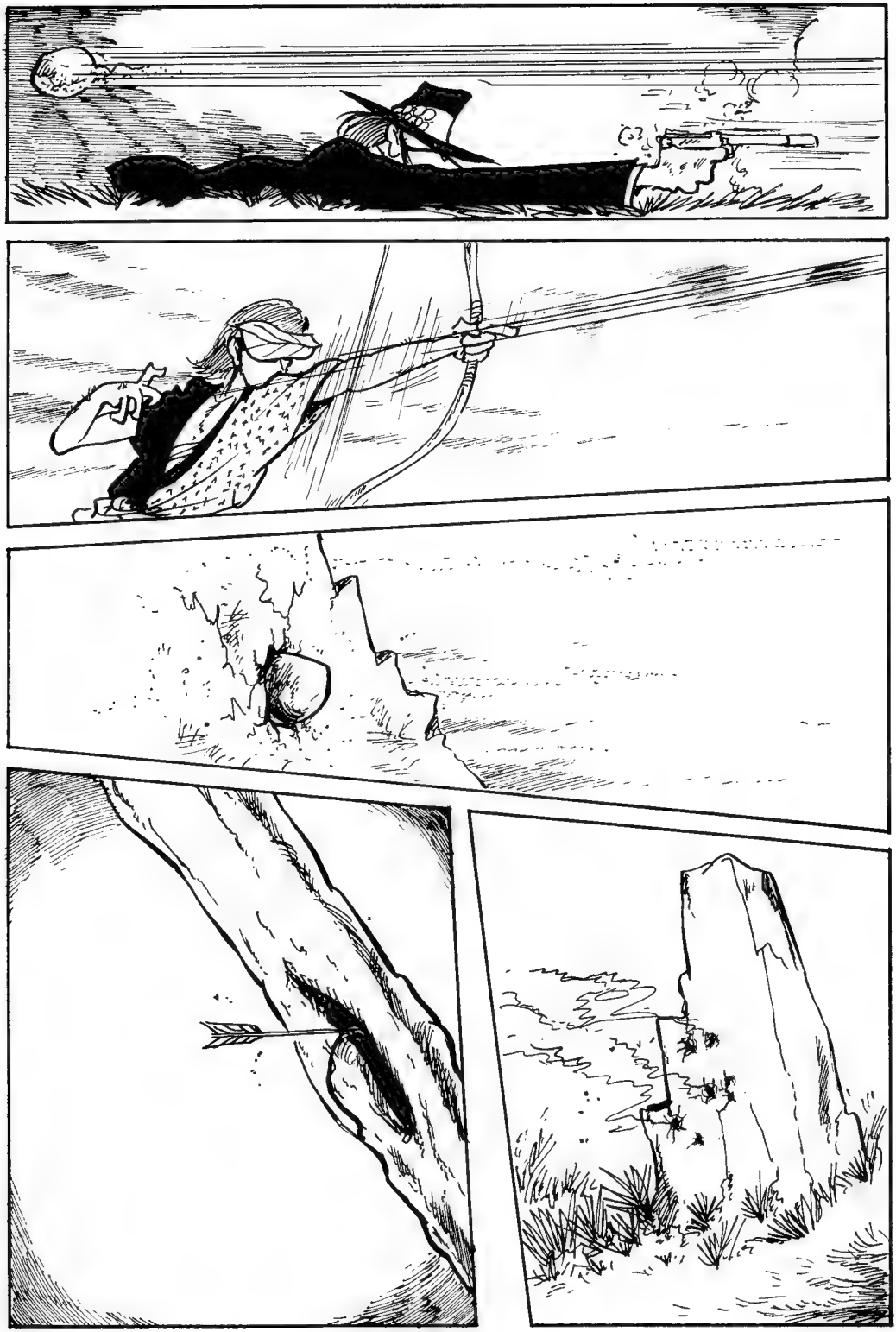

I LOOK FORWARD TO IMPECCABLE SECURITY DURING THE EXHIBIT, INSPECTOR ZENIGATA.
YES.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL DISPLAY THE DIAMOND, SIR?

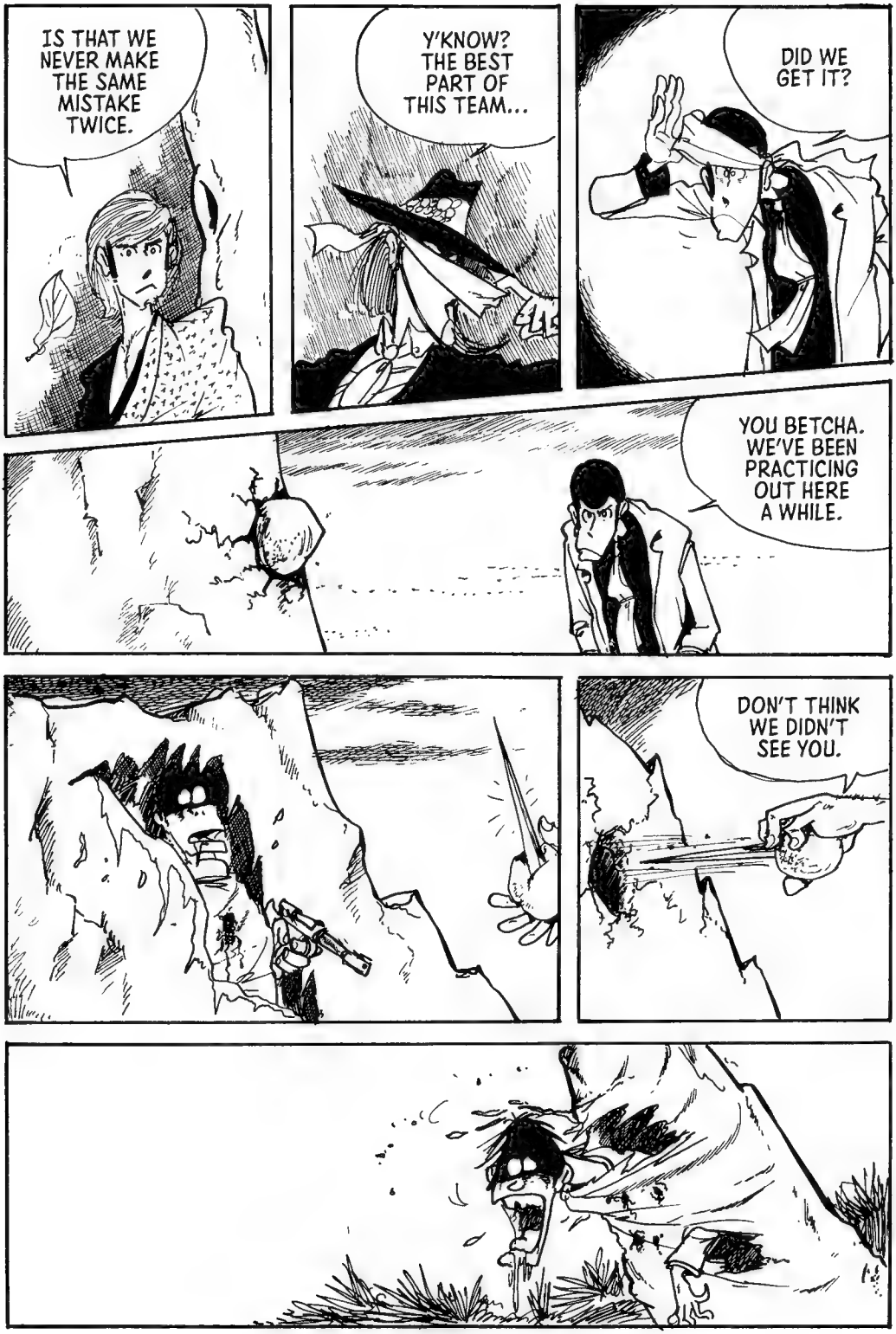

PI
NG
WHEN THE BULLETPROOF CASE IS LOWERED ONTO THE DIAMOND, EVERYTHING WITHIN THE RAIL IS **ELECTRIFIED.** ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND VOLTS!
THAT'S NOT ALL.
BULLETPROOF. I APPROVE!
WHEN DOES THE DIAMOND GO ON DISPLAY?
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT, I'M AFRAID.
YOU MAY BE AN INSPECTOR, BUT THAT'S NO GUARANTEE THE KNOWLEDGE IS SAFE WITH YOU.
GOOD. THAT'S WISE.


WHAT'S WRONG, *HUH?!* YOU'RE JUST **BLINDFOLDED!** YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE WORLD'S BEST MARKSMAN!
I MEAN IT! WHERE WERE YOU AIMING, JIGEN?!
C'MON! THAT WAS A ***DISASTER!***


QUIT YELLIN', LUPIN. YOUR AIM'S THE WORST OF ALL OF US BY A LONG SHOT.
THEY'RE RIGHT, LUPIN! AND IF YOU'RE OFF, THEN THE REST OF US WILL BE OFF!
PRECISELY! YOUR RICOCHETS HAVEN'T BEEN ANYWHERE *CLOSE* TO THE MARK!


SEE THE TARGET IN YOUR MIND. CLEARLY!
YEAH, YEAH. ONCE MORE, FROM THE TOP. BLINDFOLDS!
YEAH... "CLEARLY," LUPIN.

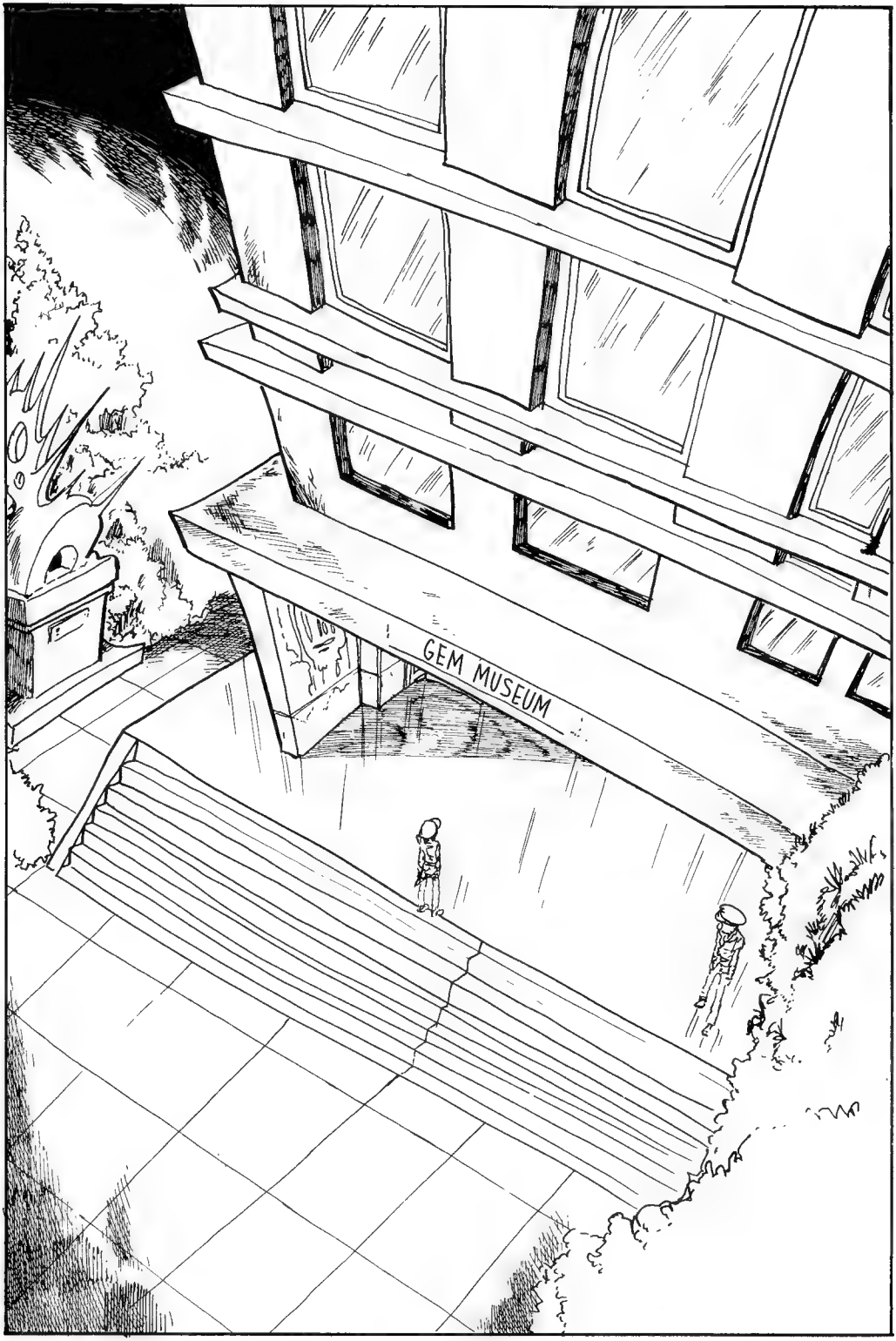


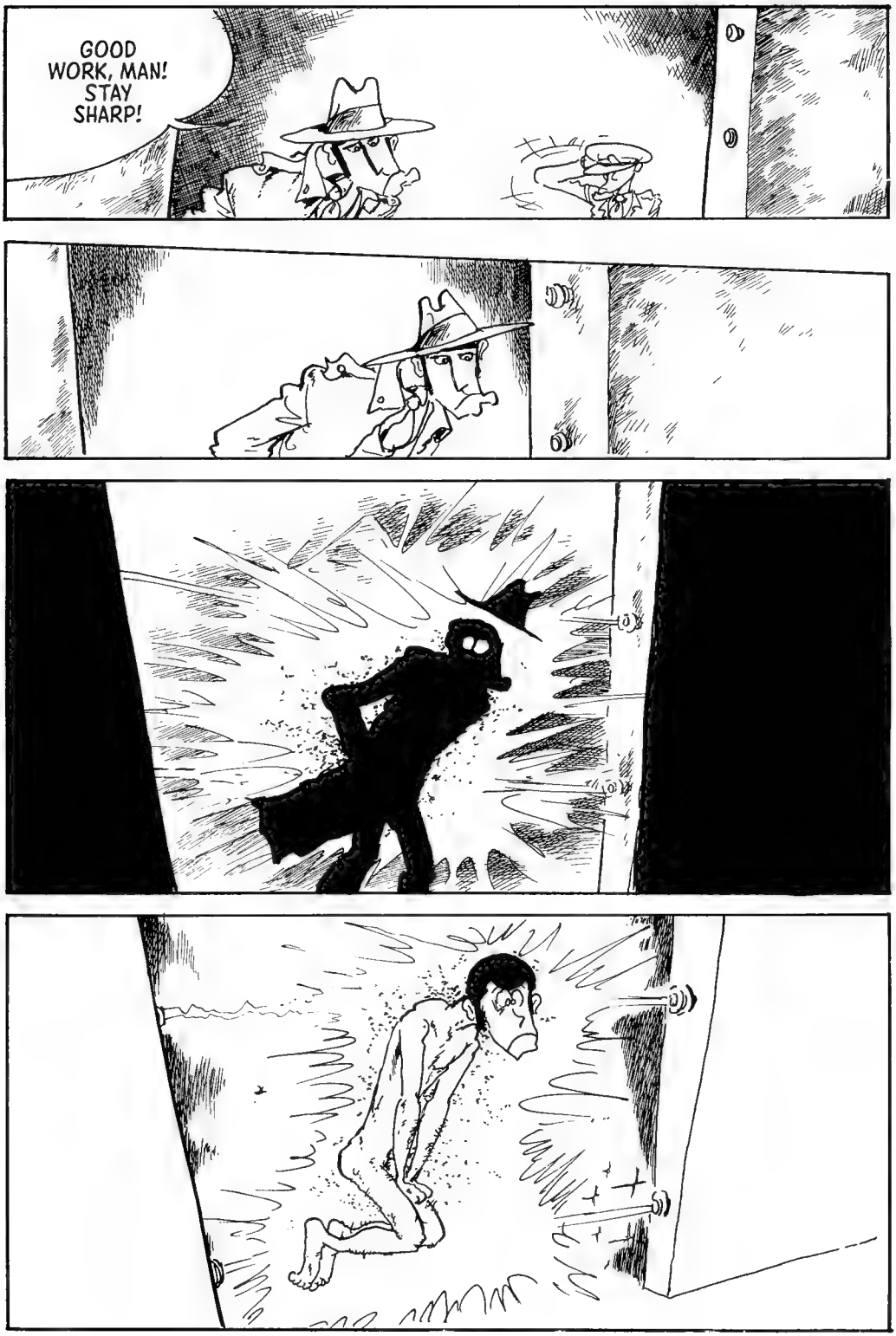

IS THAT WE NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE.
Y'KNOW? THE BEST PART OF THIS TEAM...
DID WE GET IT?
YOU BETCHA. WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING OUT HERE A WHILE.
DON'T THINK WE DIDN'T SEE YOU.

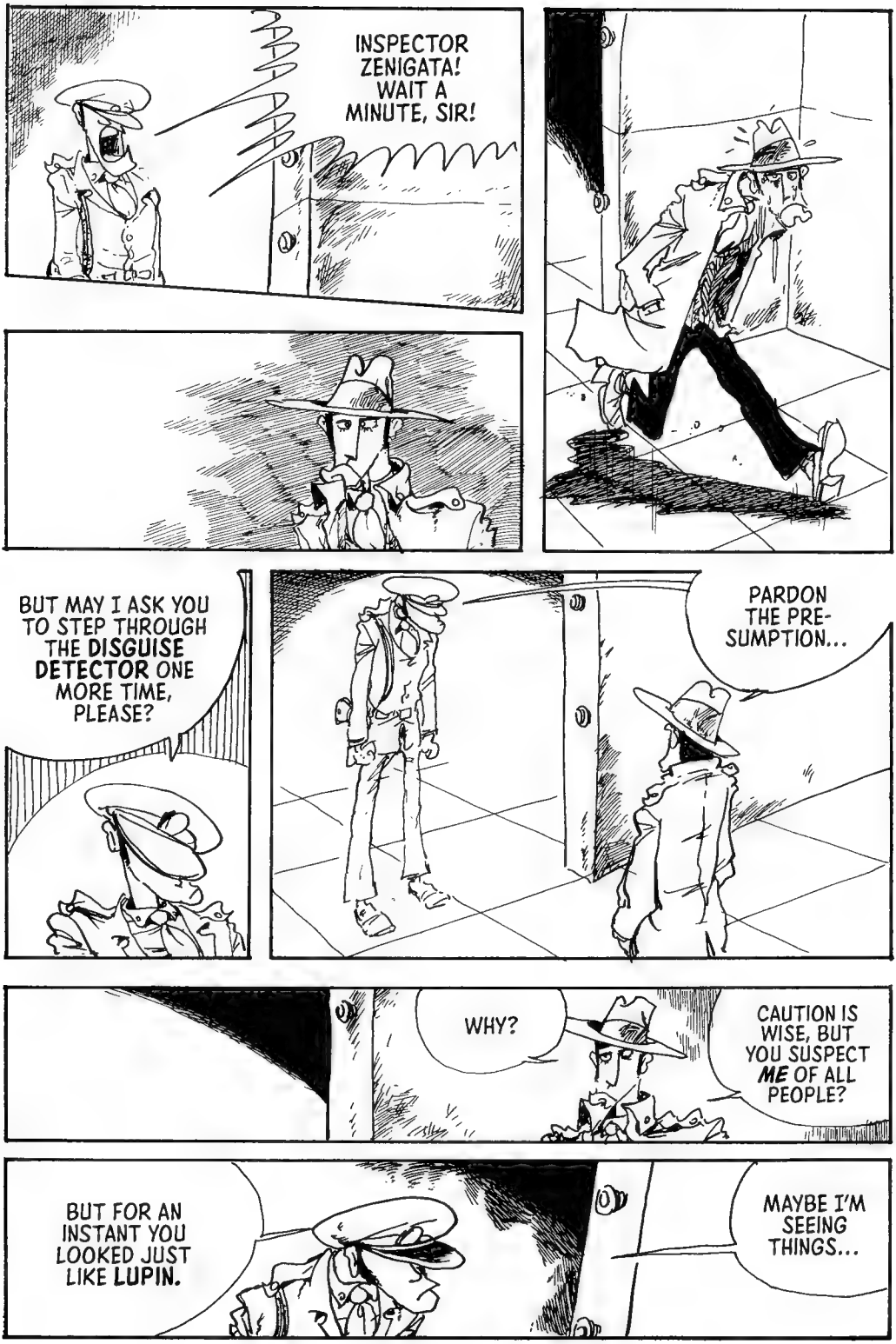
RATS.
LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT GET YOUR CHANCE TO SETTLE UP WITH THE **RAT CLAN** SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
Y'KNOW, LUPIN.
DID ONE GET AWAY?!
THERE SHOULD'VE BEEN *FOUR* RATS.
WAIT A SEC.
IF THE RAT CLAN GETS WIND OF OUR PLAN, THEN...!
THAT'S BAD! REALLY, *REALLY* BAD!!
OH, DON'T WORRY.

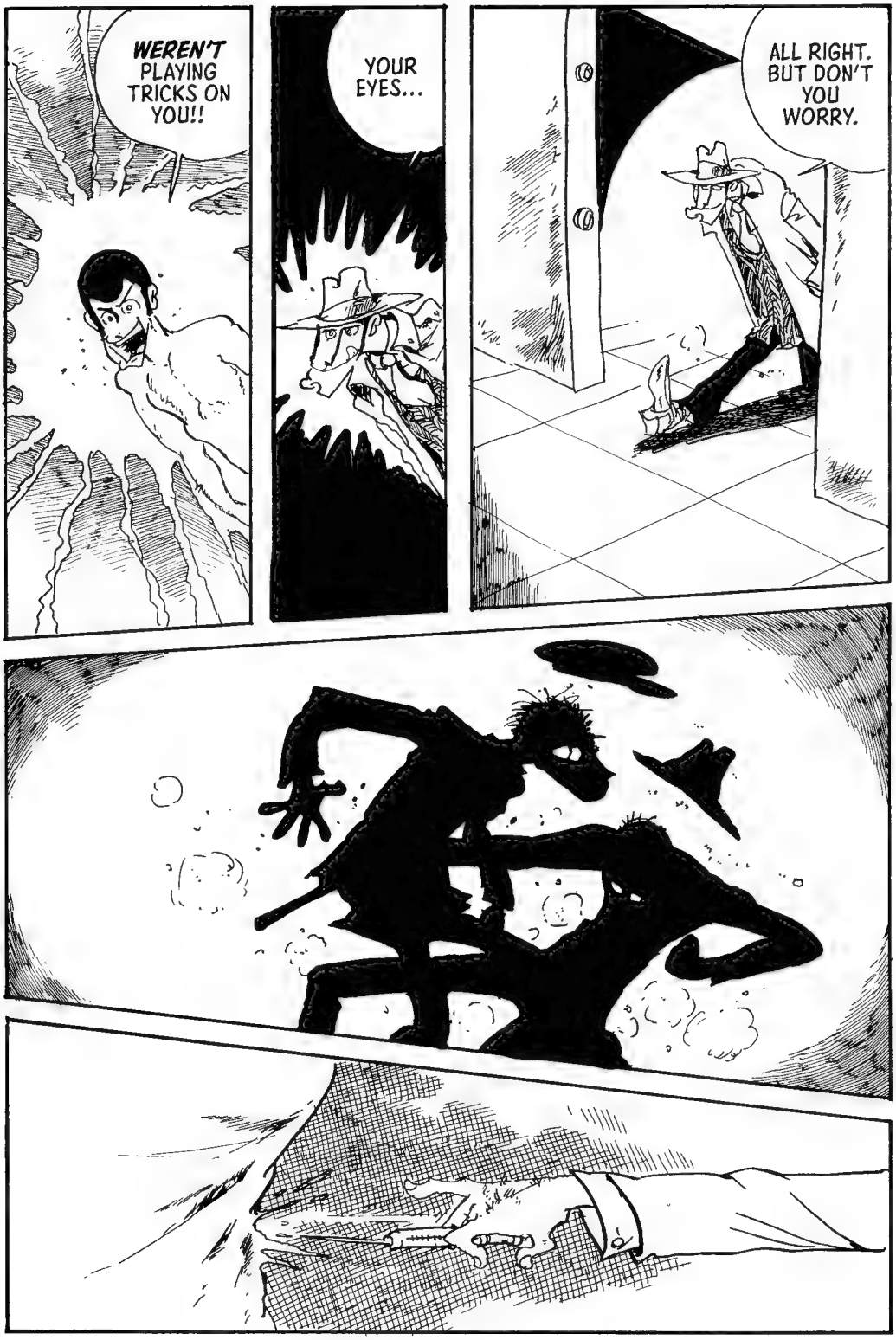
Skip the 3, 4 Deaths, Rehearse on 5 / END

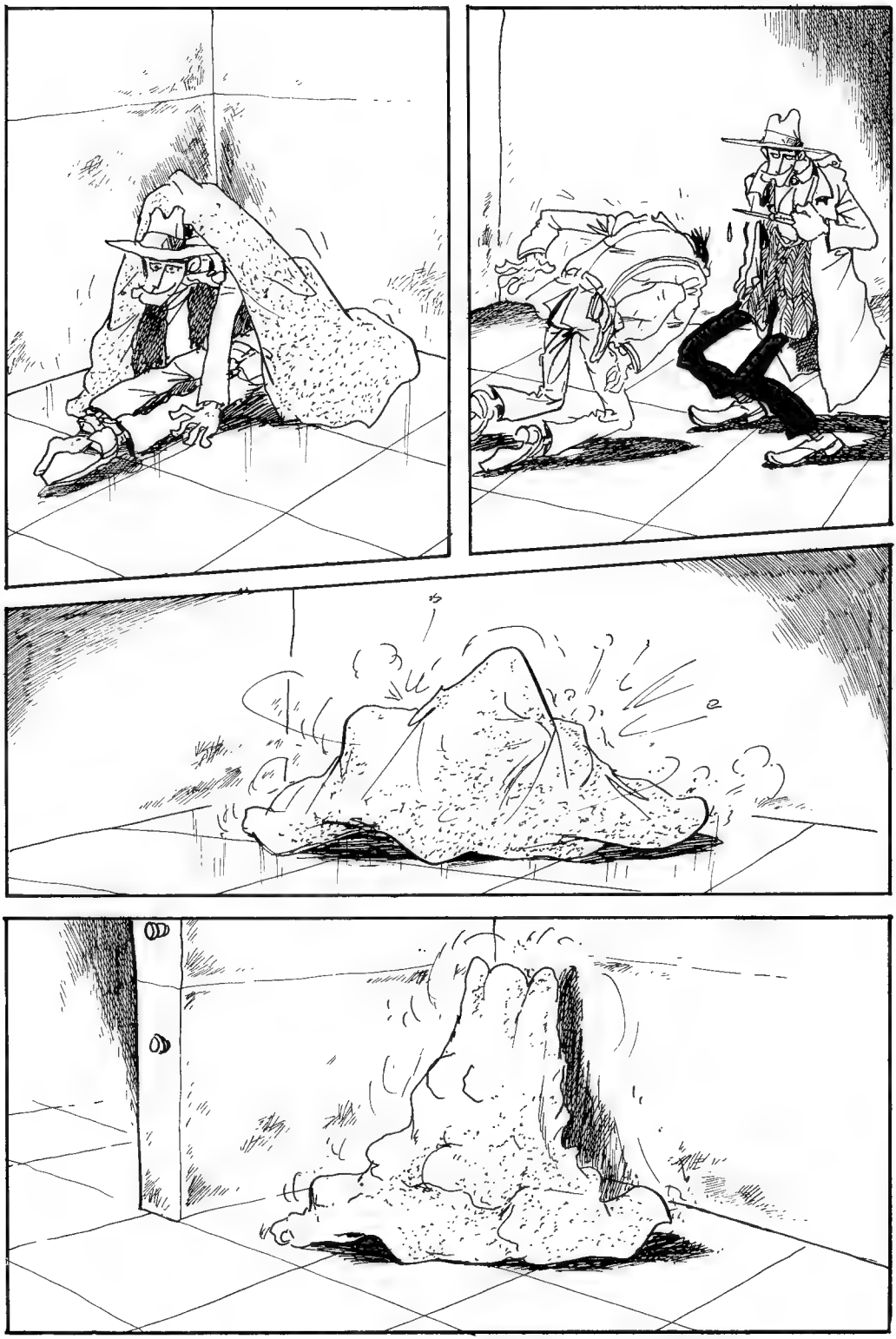
Skip the 8, 9 Pitfalls, Succeed on 10

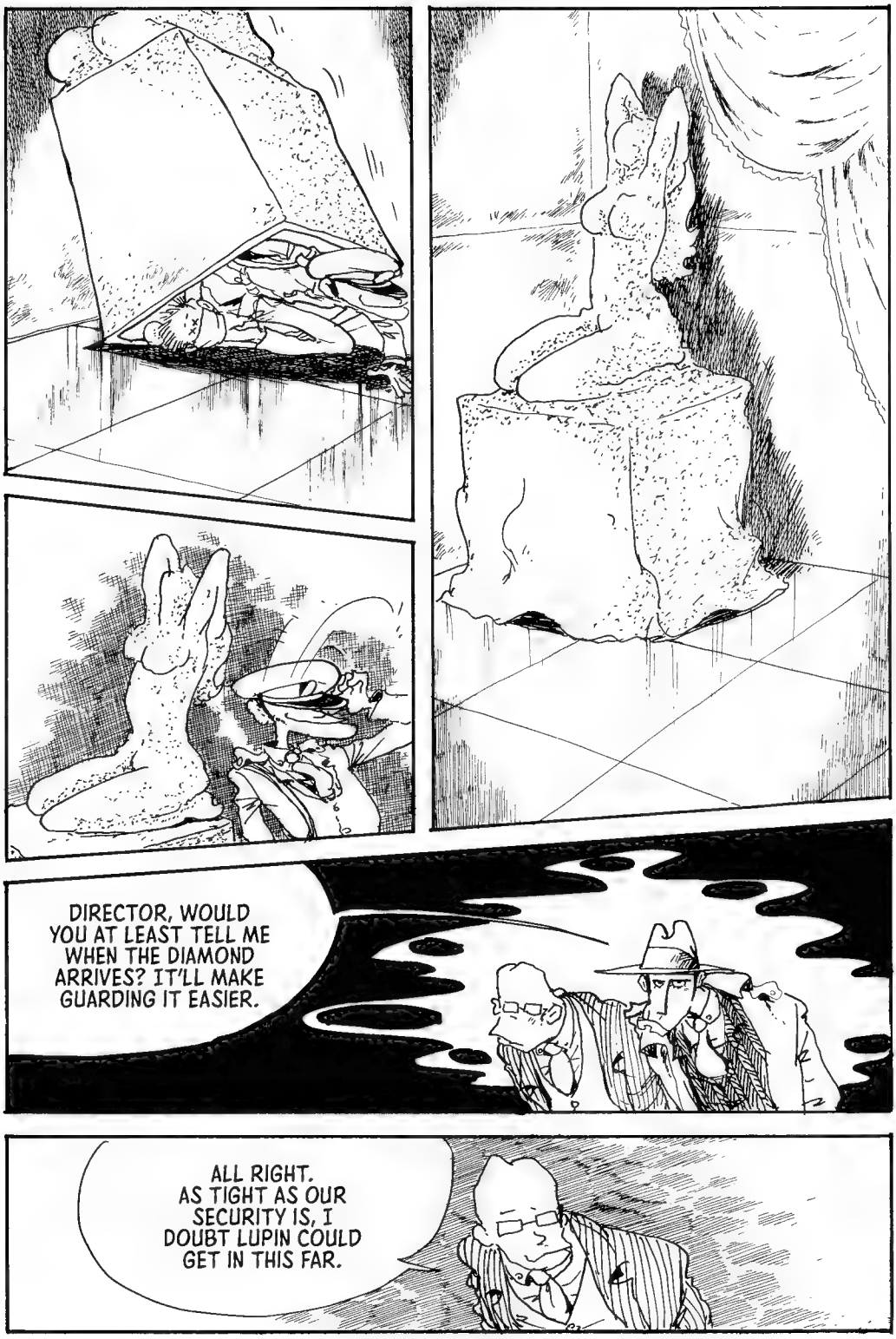

GEM MUSEUM

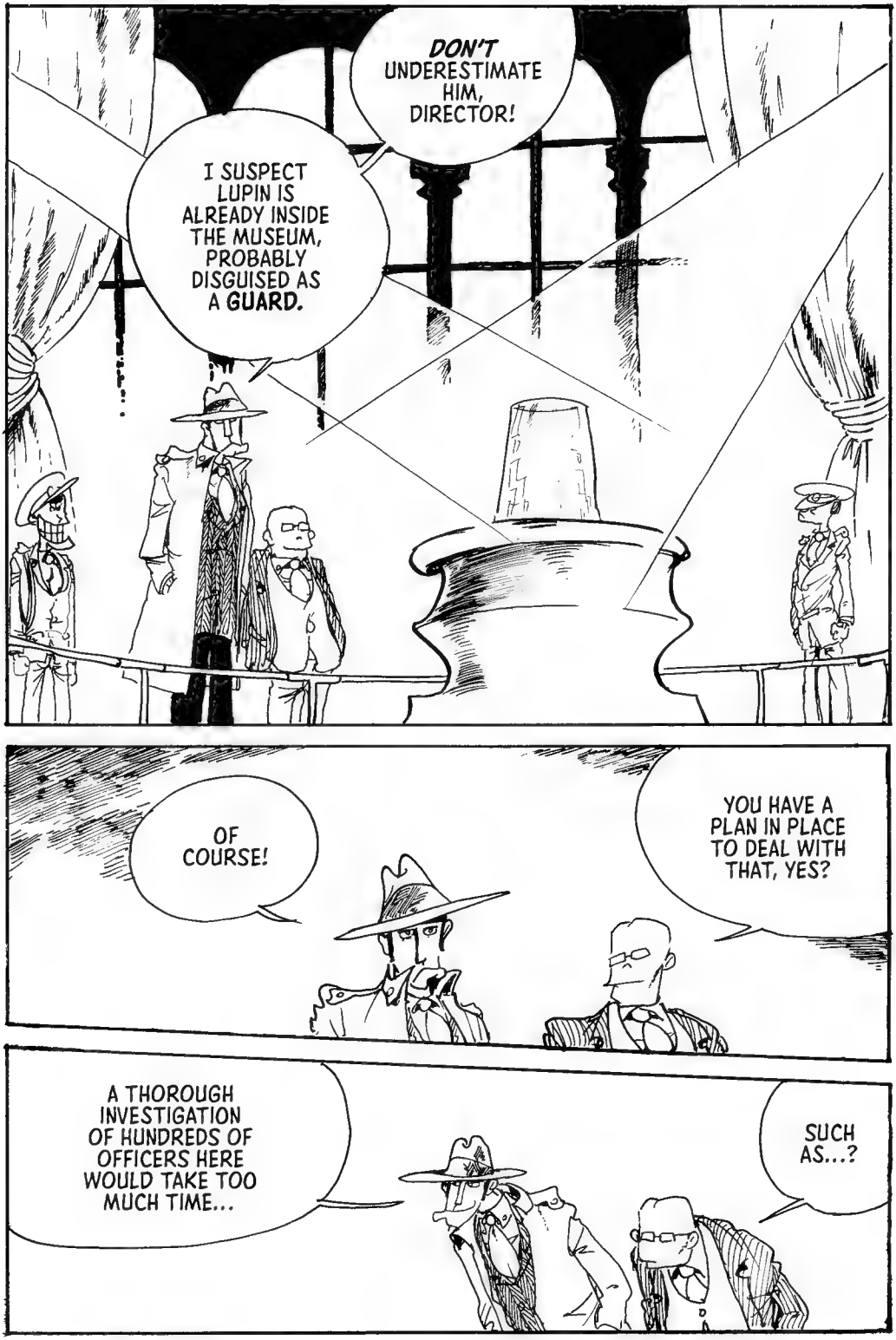

GOOD WORK, MAN! STAY SHARP!


INSPECTOR ZENIGATA! WAIT A MINUTE, SIR!
BUT MAY I ASK YOU TO STEP THROUGH THE **DISGUISE DETECTOR** ONE MORE TIME, PLEASE?
PARDON THE PRE-SUMPTION...
WHY?
CAUTION IS WISE, BUT YOU SUSPECT ***ME*** OF ALL PEOPLE?
BUT FOR AN INSTANT YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE **LUPIN.**
MAYBE I'M SEEING THINGS...

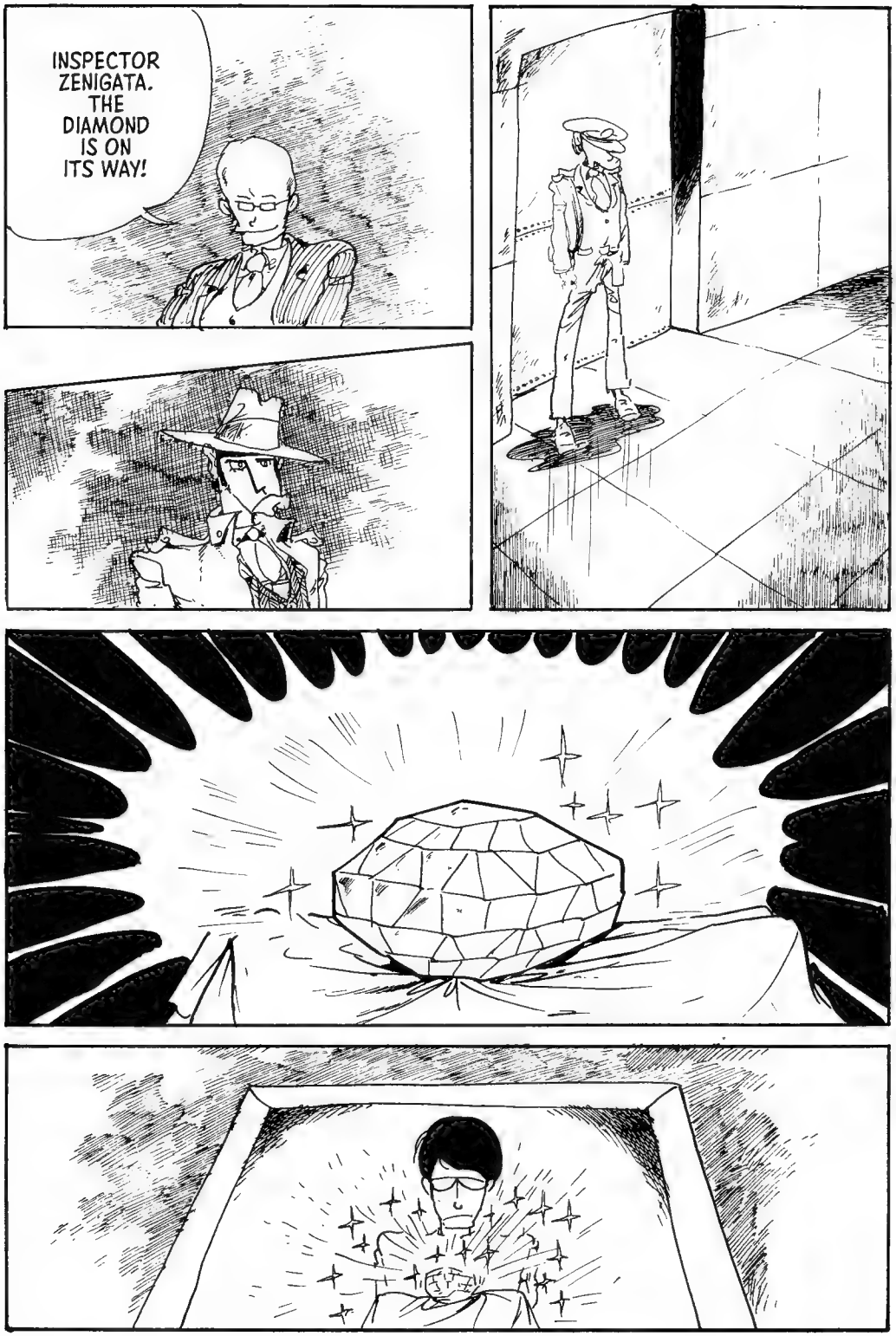

WEREN'T PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU!!
YOUR EYES...
ALL RIGHT. BUT DON'T YOU WORRY.

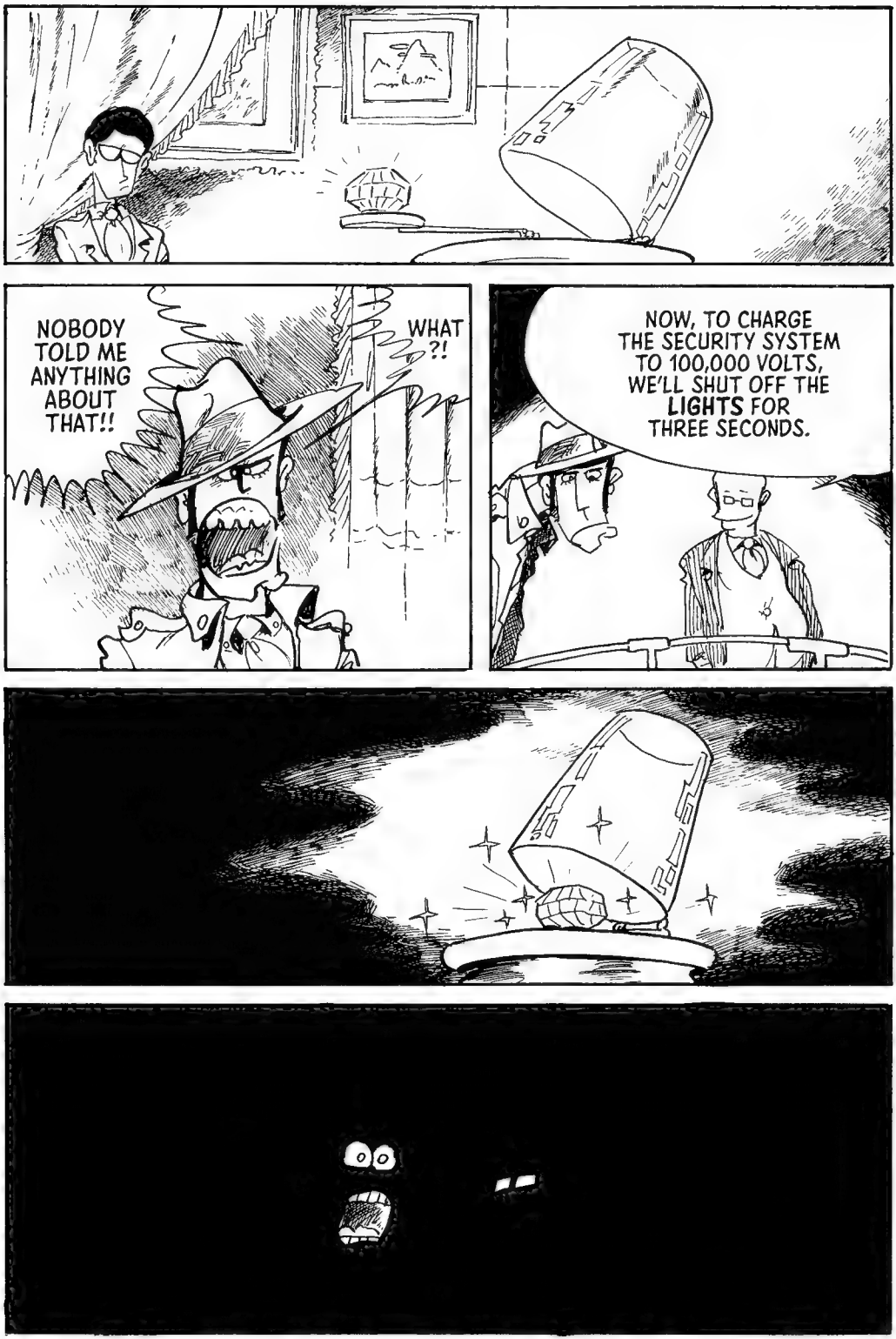



DIRECTOR, WOULD YOU AT LEAST TELL ME WHEN THE DIAMOND ARRIVES? IT'LL MAKE GUARDING IT EASIER.
ALL RIGHT. AS TIGHT AS OUR SECURITY IS, I DOUBT LUPIN COULD GET IN THIS FAR.

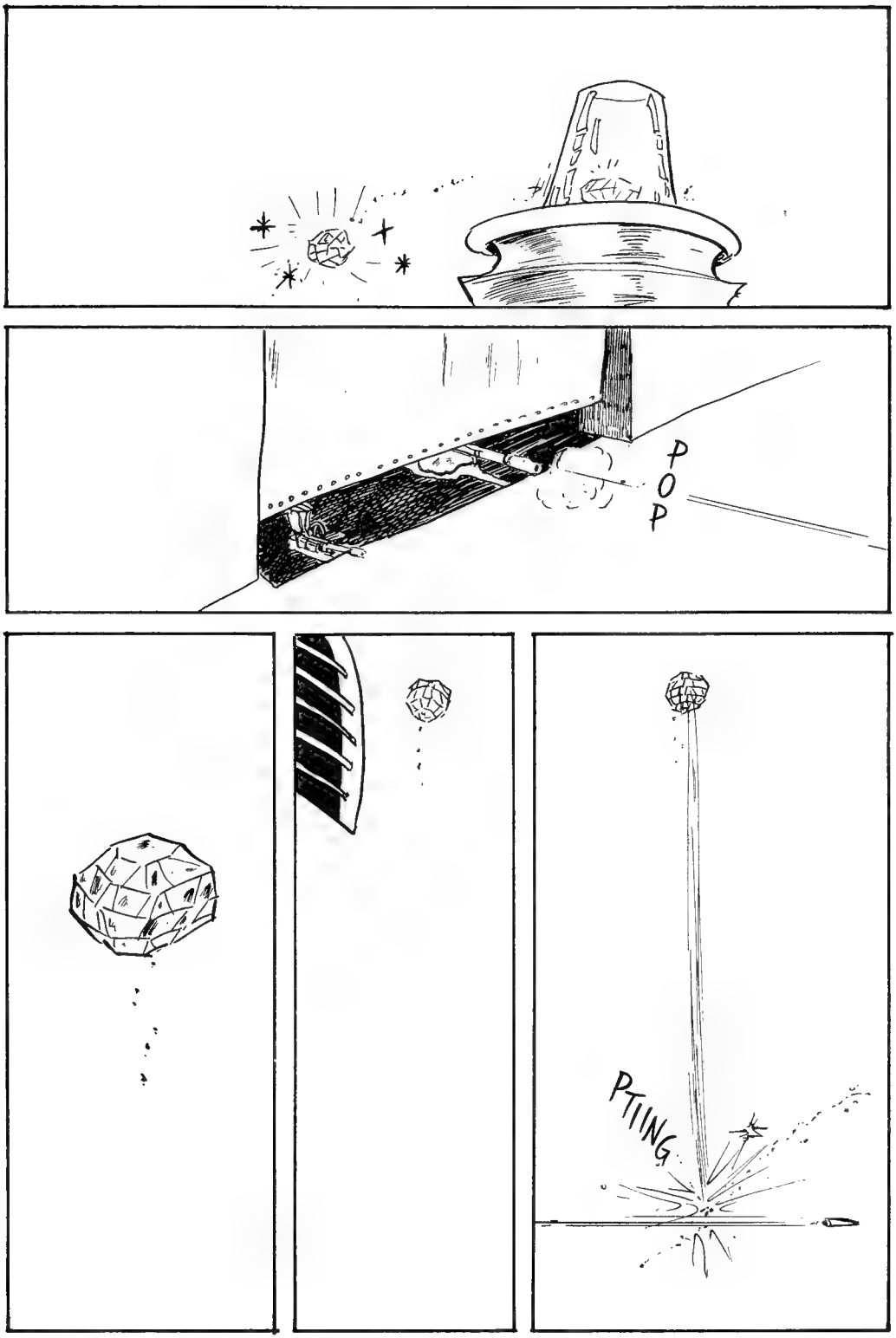

I SUSPECT LUPIN IS ALREADY INSIDE THE MUSEUM, PROBABLY DISGUISED AS A GUARD.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM, DIRECTOR!
OF COURSE!
YOU HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH THAT, YES?
A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF HUNDREDS OF OFFICERS HERE WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH TIME...
SUCH AS...?

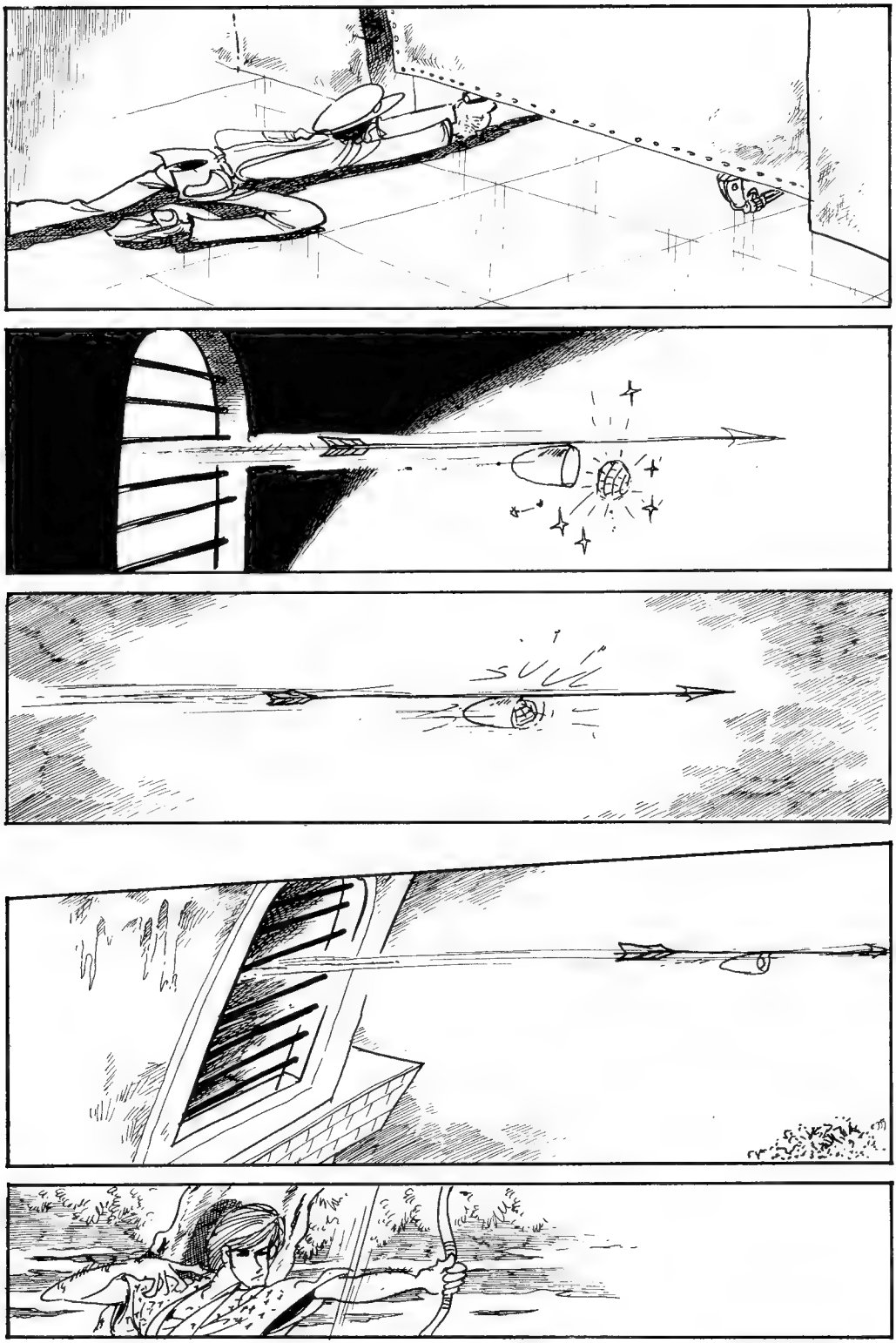
SHUNK
SHUNK
SO WE SIMPLY WON'T LET ANYBODY WHO COMES IN... GO BACK OUT.
I FIGURED YOU'D DO THAT, ZENIGATA!
SHUUNK

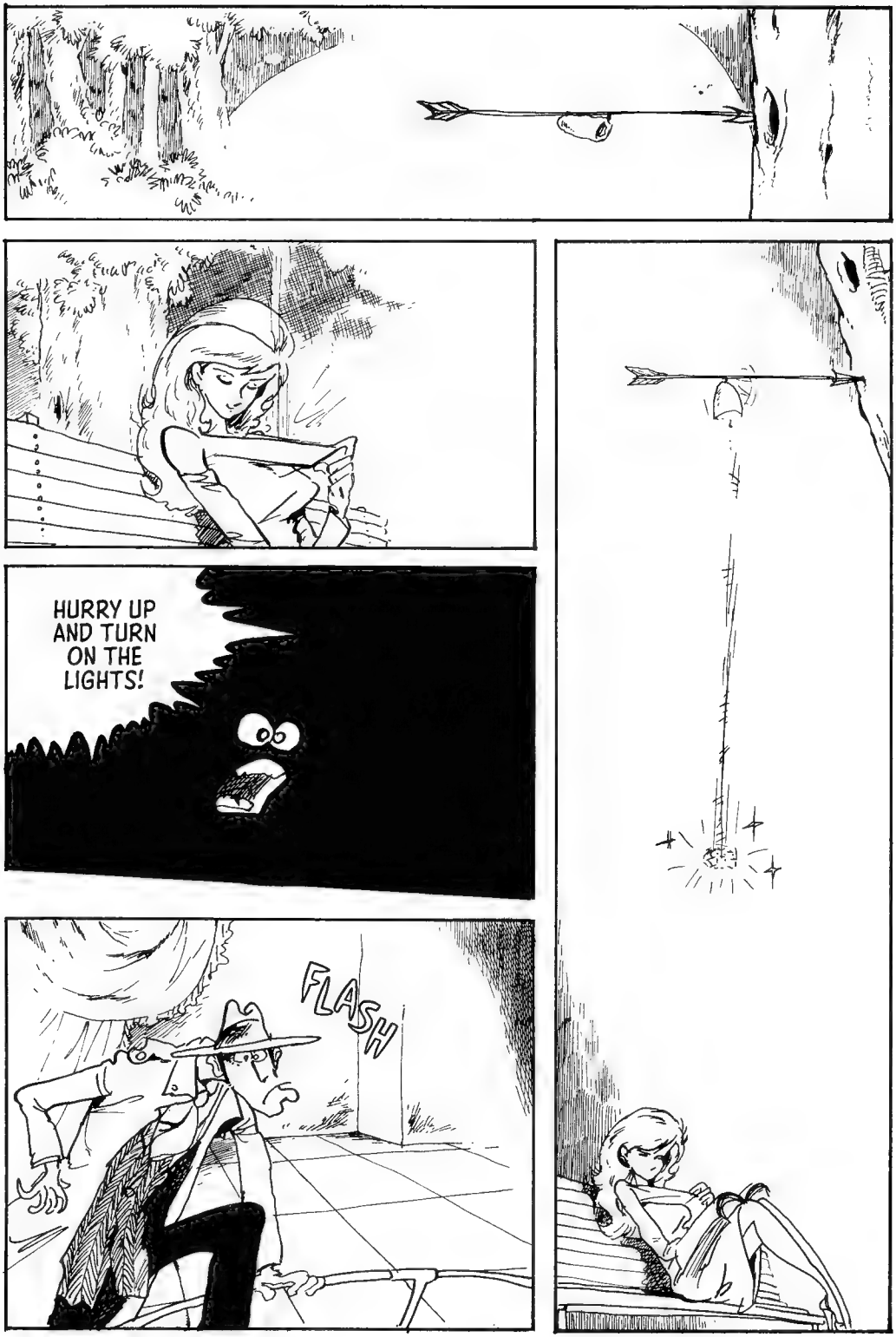

INSPECTOR ZENIGATA. THE DIAMOND IS ON ITS WAY!


NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
WHAT?!
NOW, TO CHARGE THE SECURITY SYSTEM TO 100,000 VOLTS, WE'LL SHUT OFF THE LIGHTS FOR THREE SECONDS.

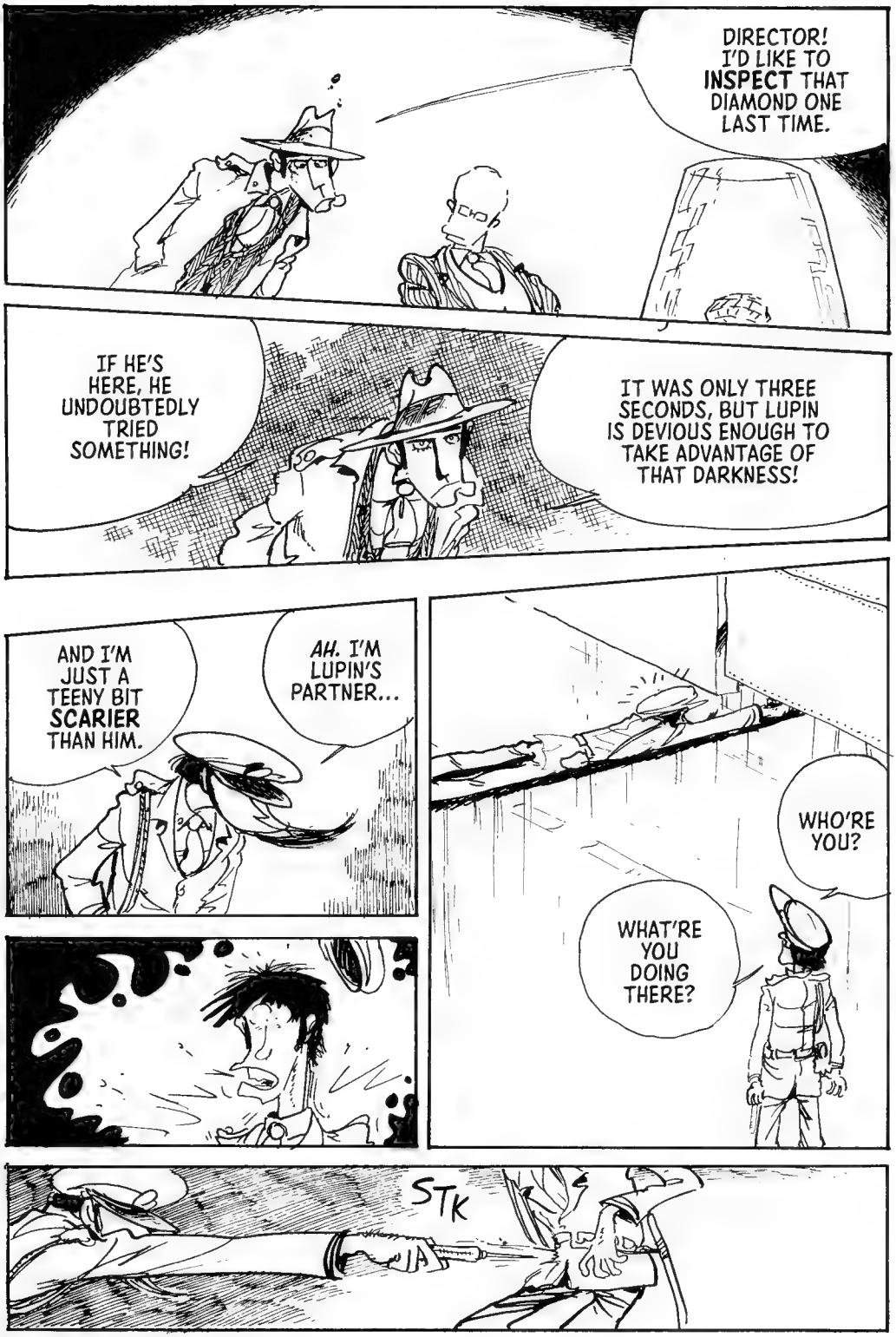
KLAK...

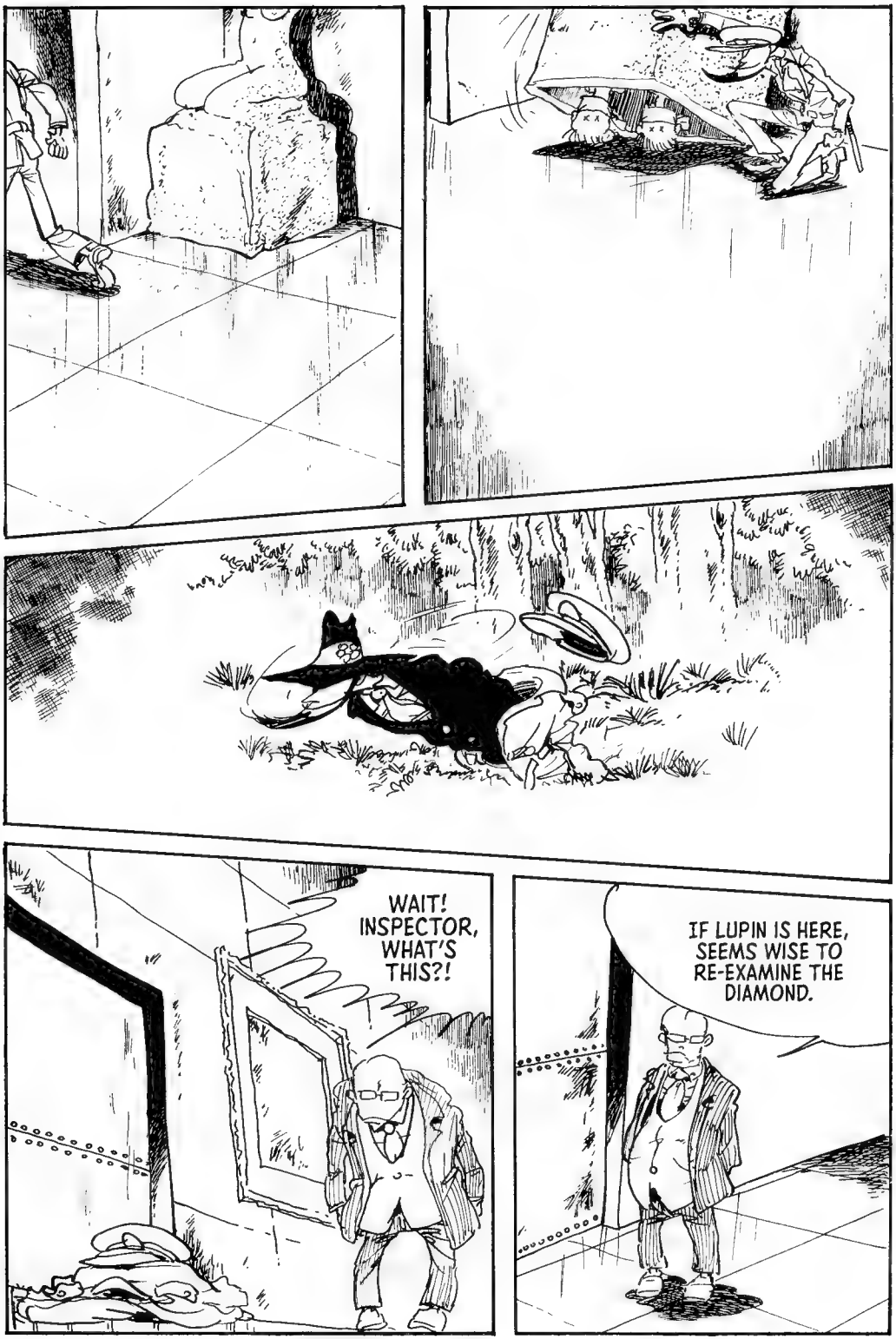

POP
PTING

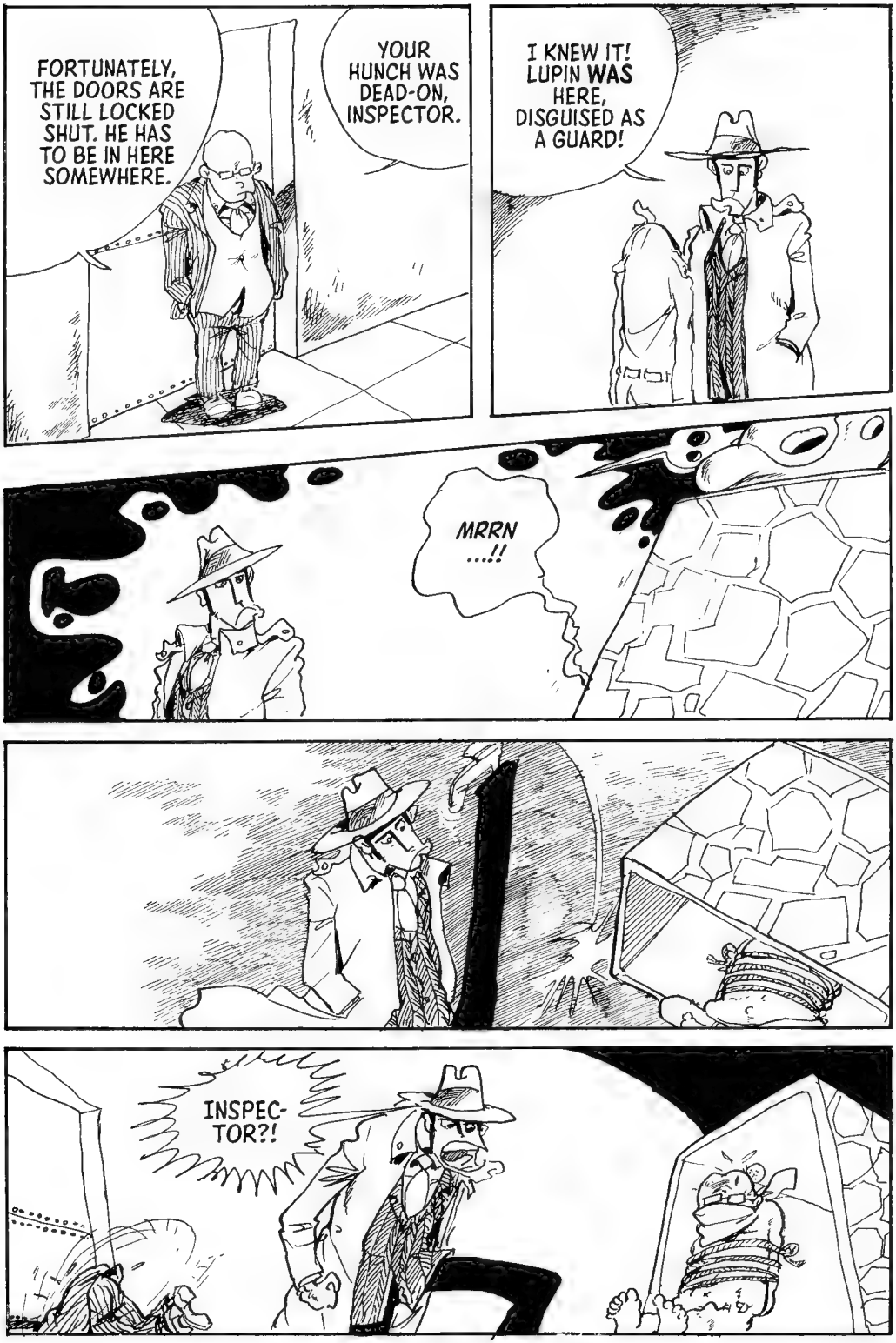

SUU

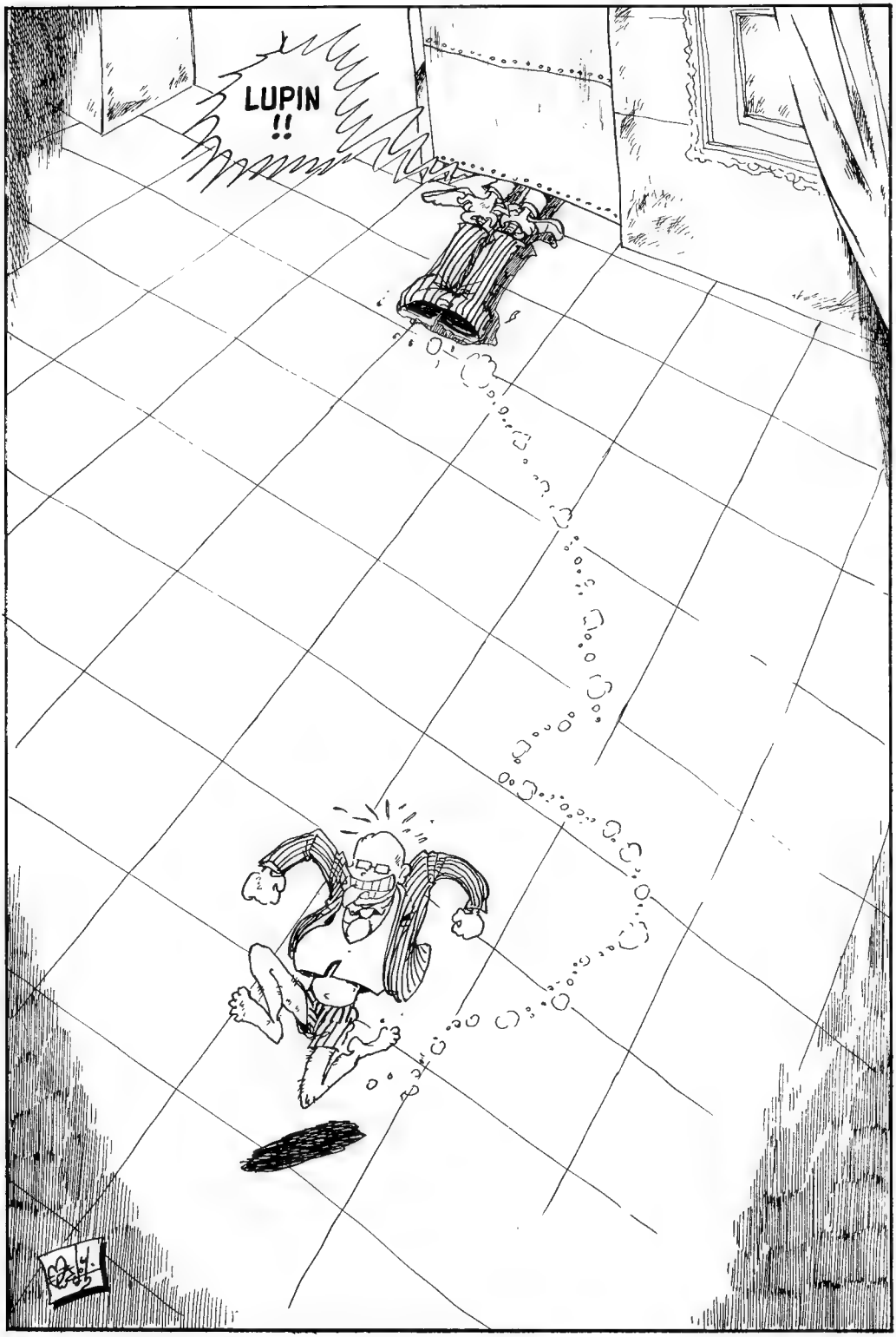

HURRY UP AND TURN ON THE LIGHTS!
FLASH

I WARNED YOU THAT 100,000 VOLTS WERE RUNNING THROUGH THAT RAIL, IF YOU RECALL.
AND LOOK. THE DIAMOND IS PERFECTLY SAFE.
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. IT'S CALIBRATED TO MAKE SURE THE SHOCK IS NEVER ENOUGH TO KILL ANYONE.


DIRECTOR! I'D LIKE TO **INSPECT** THAT DIAMOND ONE LAST TIME.
IF HE'S HERE, HE UNDOUBTEDLY TRIED SOMETHING!
IT WAS ONLY THREE SECONDS, BUT LUPIN IS DEVIOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT DARKNESS!
AND I'M JUST A TEENY BIT **SCARIER** THAN HIM.
AH. I'M LUPIN'S PARTNER...
WHO'RE YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE?
STK
IA


WAIT! INSPECTOR, WHAT'S THIS?!
IF LUPIN IS HERE, SEEMS WISE TO RE-EXAMINE THE DIAMOND.

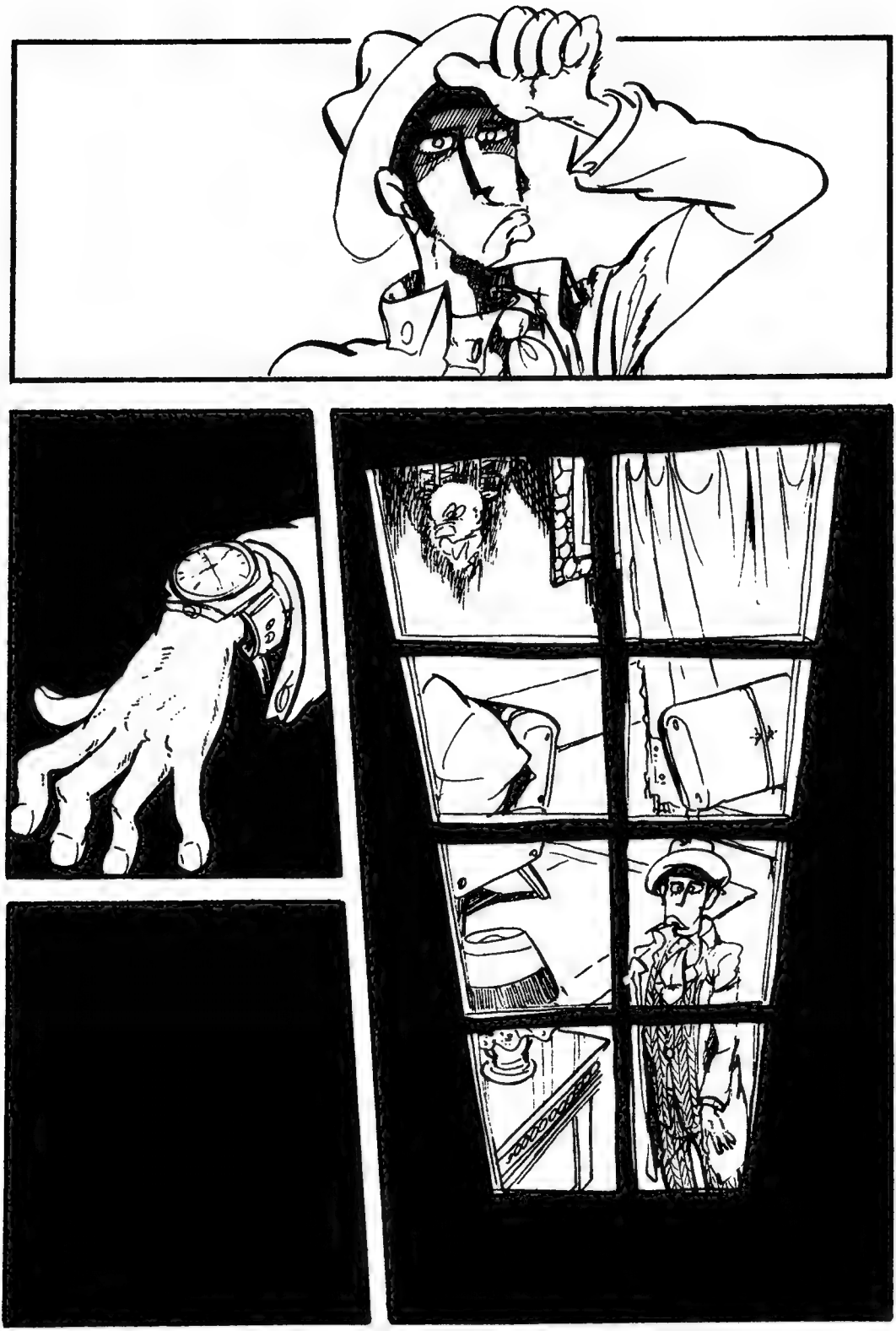

FORTUNATELY, THE DOORS ARE STILL LOCKED SHUT. HE HAS TO BE IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
YOUR HUNCH WAS DEAD-ON, INSPECTOR.
I KNEW IT! LUPIN WAS HERE, DISGUISED AS A GUARD!
MRRN ....!!
INSPEC-TOR?!

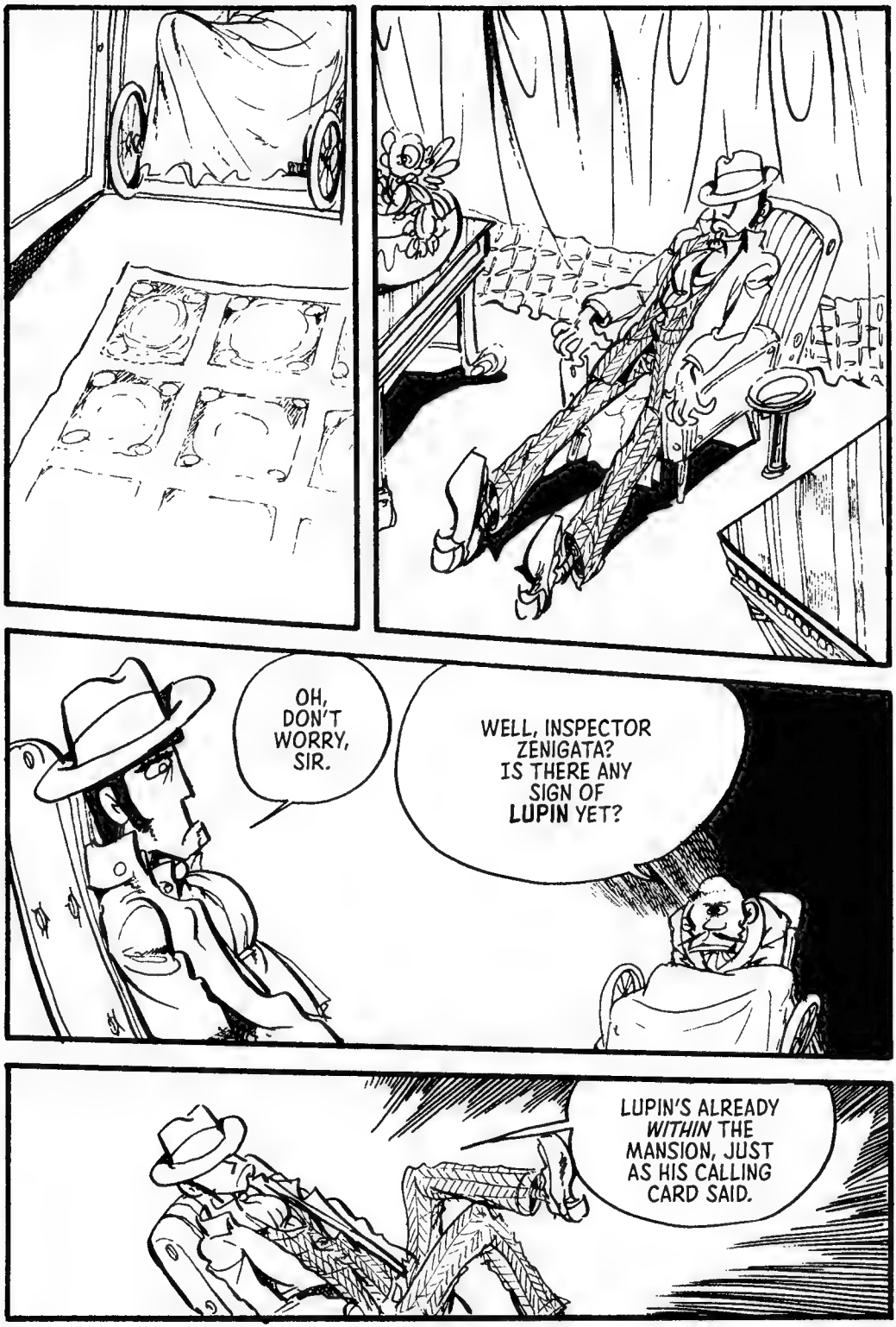


Skip the 8, 9 Pitfalls, Succeed on 10 / END

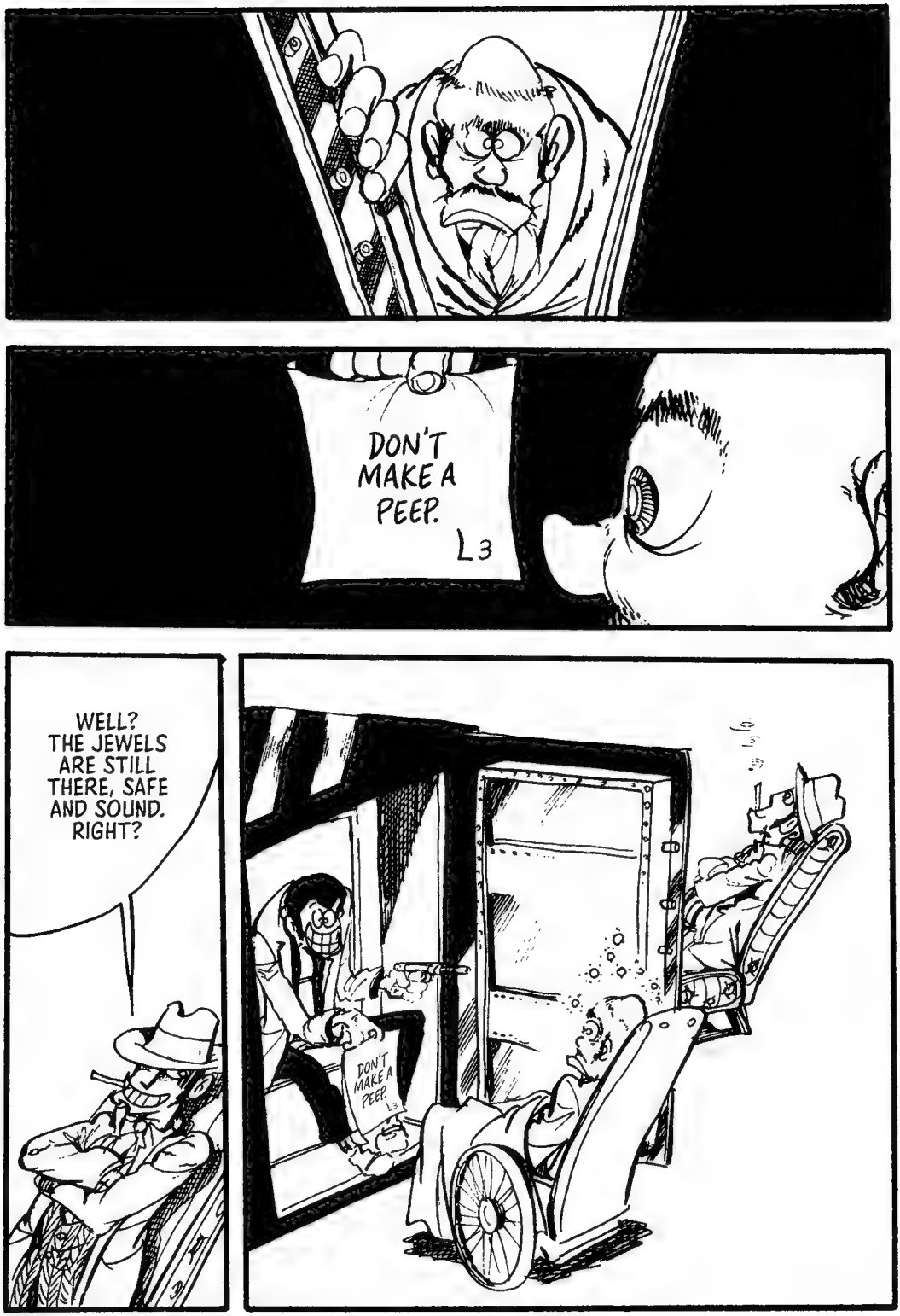
LUPIN THE THIRD

Gotcha!



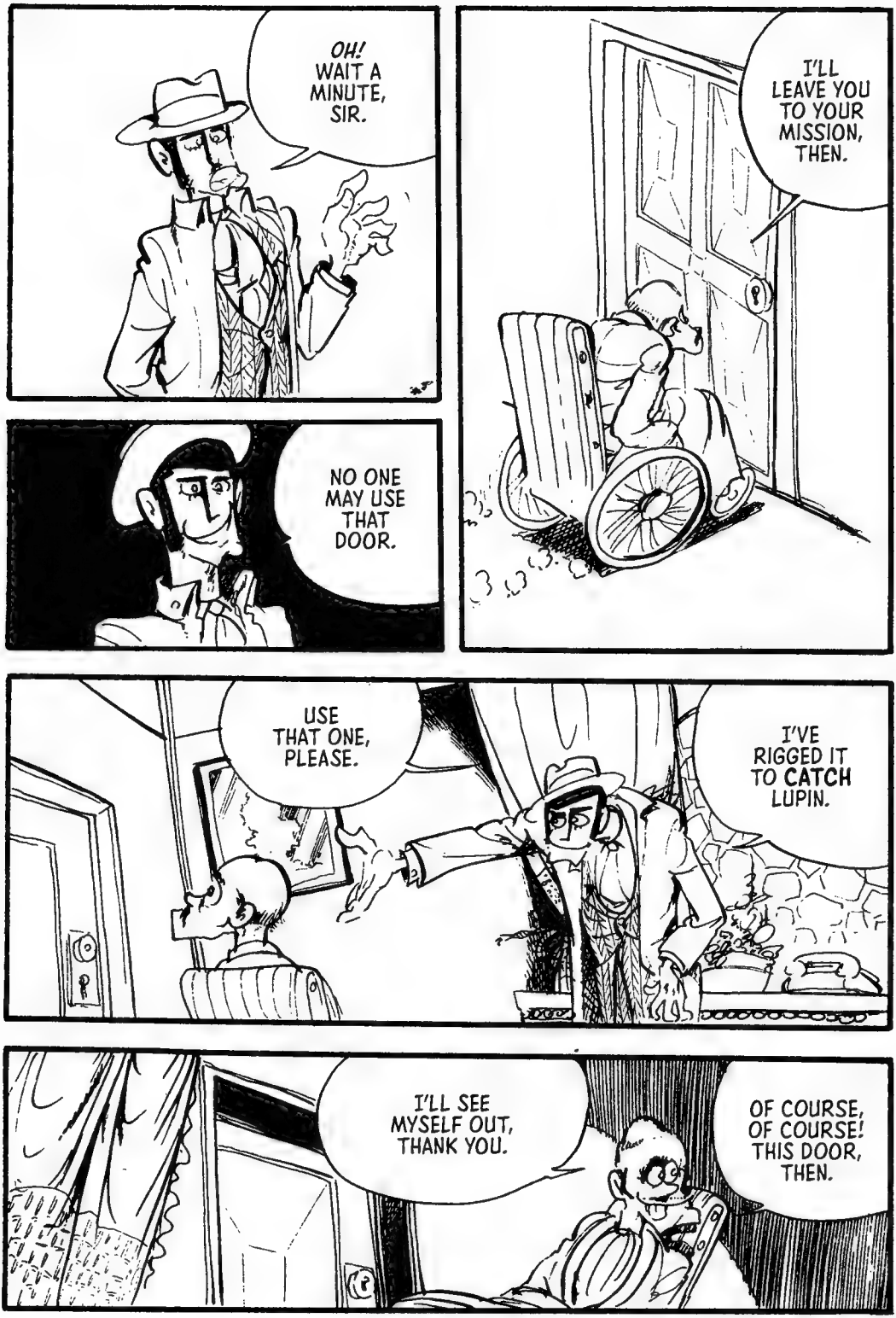

OH, DON'T WORRY, SIR.
WELL, INSPECTOR ZENIGATA? IS THERE ANY SIGN OF **LUPIN** YET?
LUPIN'S ALREADY *WITHIN* THE MANSION, JUST AS HIS CALLING CARD SAID.

HA HA! THERE'S NO RUSH, SIR.
OHO! HE LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION. THEN WHERE IS HE?
HAVE PATIENCE! AS SOON AS HE SHOWS HIS UGLY MUG, I'LL CUFF 'IM!
LET ME CHECK MY SAFE ONE LAST TIME.
STILL, I'M WORRIED.

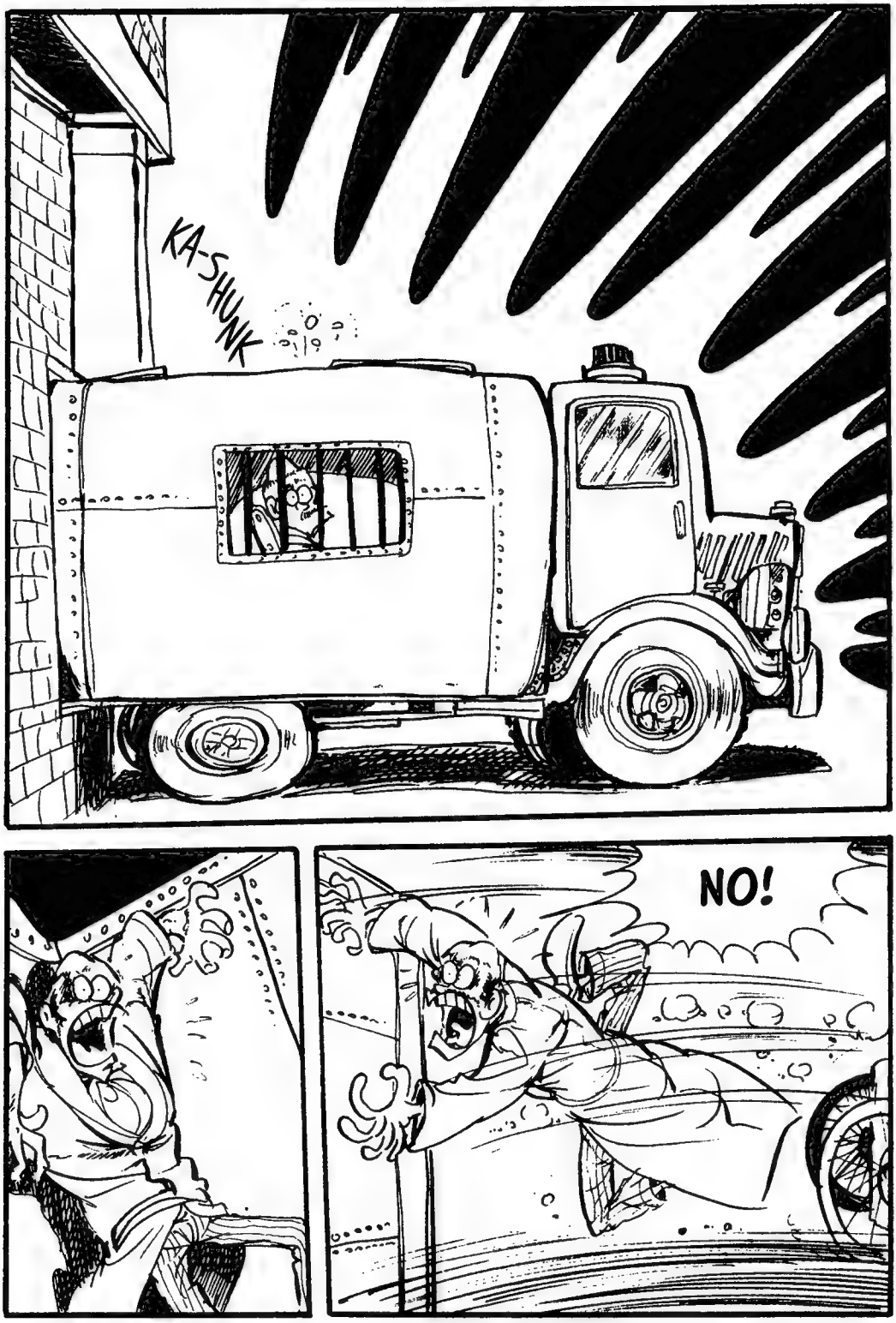

DON'T MAKE A PEEP.
L3
WELL? THE JEWELS ARE STILL THERE, SAFE AND SOUND. RIGHT?
DON'T MAKE A PEEP.
L3

LUPIN'S NO FOOL.
BUT THEN AGAIN, I'M NO FOOL, EITHER!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE LUPIN IS...
AND EXACTLY WHAT HE'S UP TO.

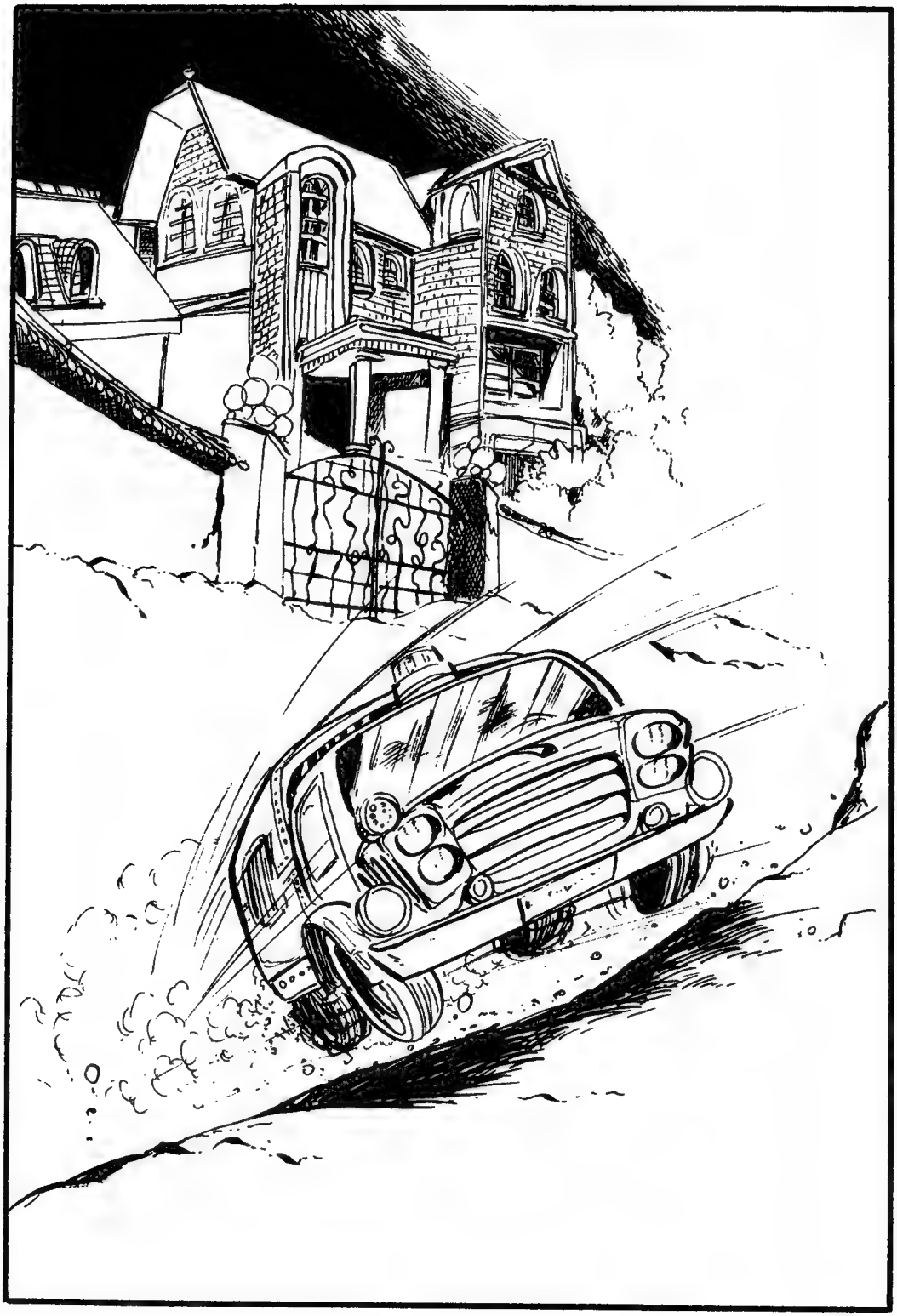
YOU'LL GO FAR, YOUNG MAN.
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK
YOU'VE COME SO HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. LET'S CLOSE THIS SAFE NOW.
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME, SIR. YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.
GLADLY! IT PUTS MY HEART AT EASE TO KNOW A FIRST-CLASS DETECTIVE LIKE YOU IS ON THE CASE.

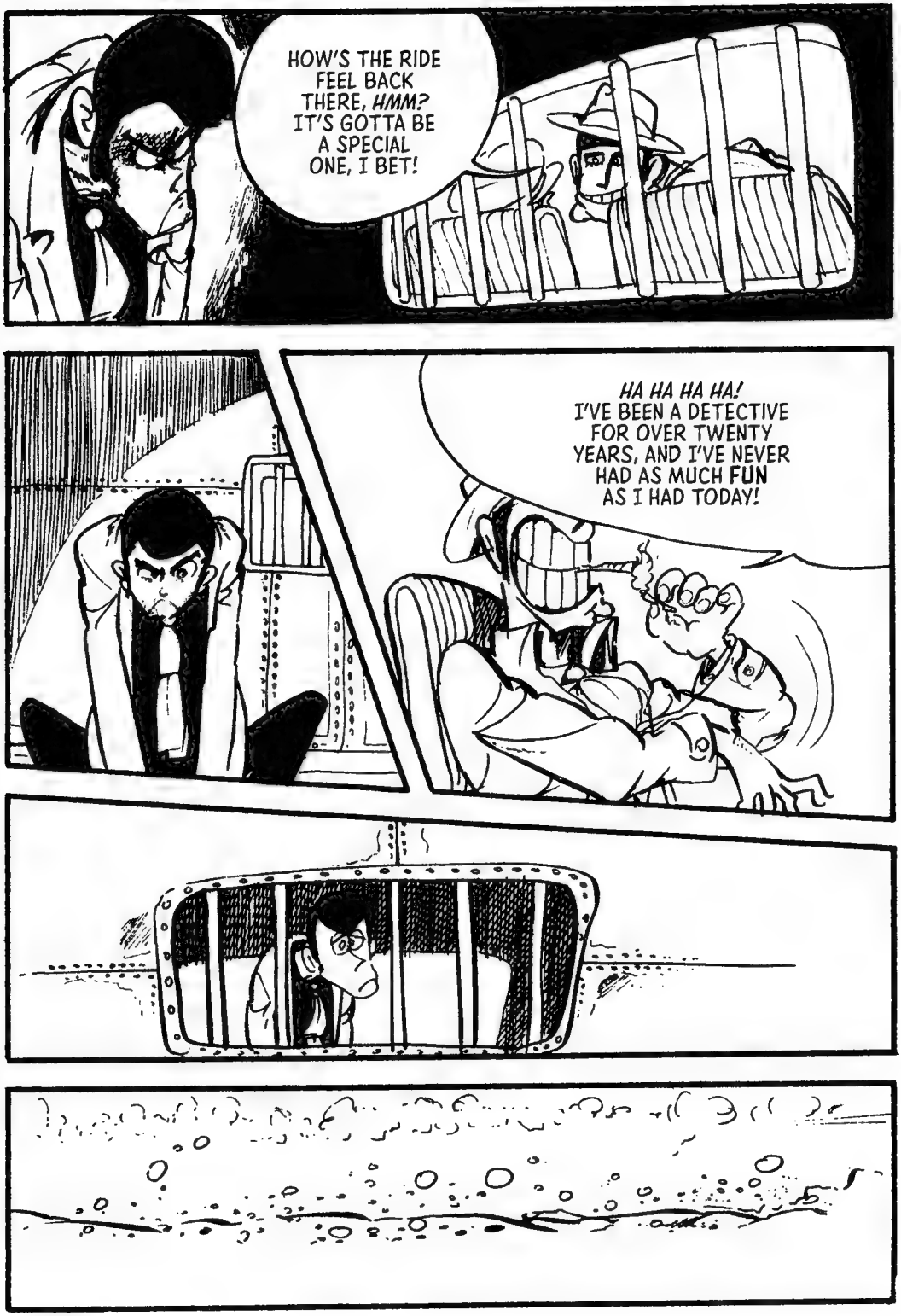

OH! WAIT A MINUTE, SIR.
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR MISSION, THEN.
NO ONE MAY USE THAT DOOR.
USE THAT ONE, PLEASE.
I'VE RIGGED IT TO CATCH LUPIN.
I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT, THANK YOU.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE! THIS DOOR, THEN.

GOOD NIGHT TO YOU ALL!
HEE HEE HEE HEE... AHA HA HA HA...
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
WELL THEN...
WAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA! HA HA
GLANK


KA-SHUNK
NO!

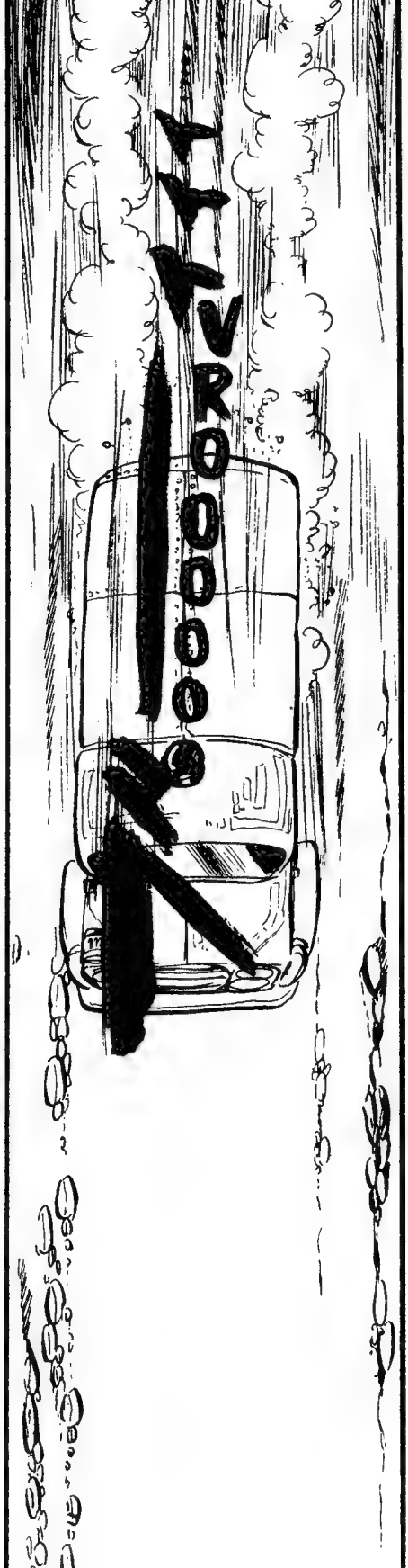
I SAID I WAS NO FOOL. REMEMBER?
HA HA! I KNEW YOU WERE THERE, LUPIN.
MRRRG!
WE'RE OFF, DRIVER! TAKE US STRAIGHT TO THE JAIL! HA HA HA!
DAMN!

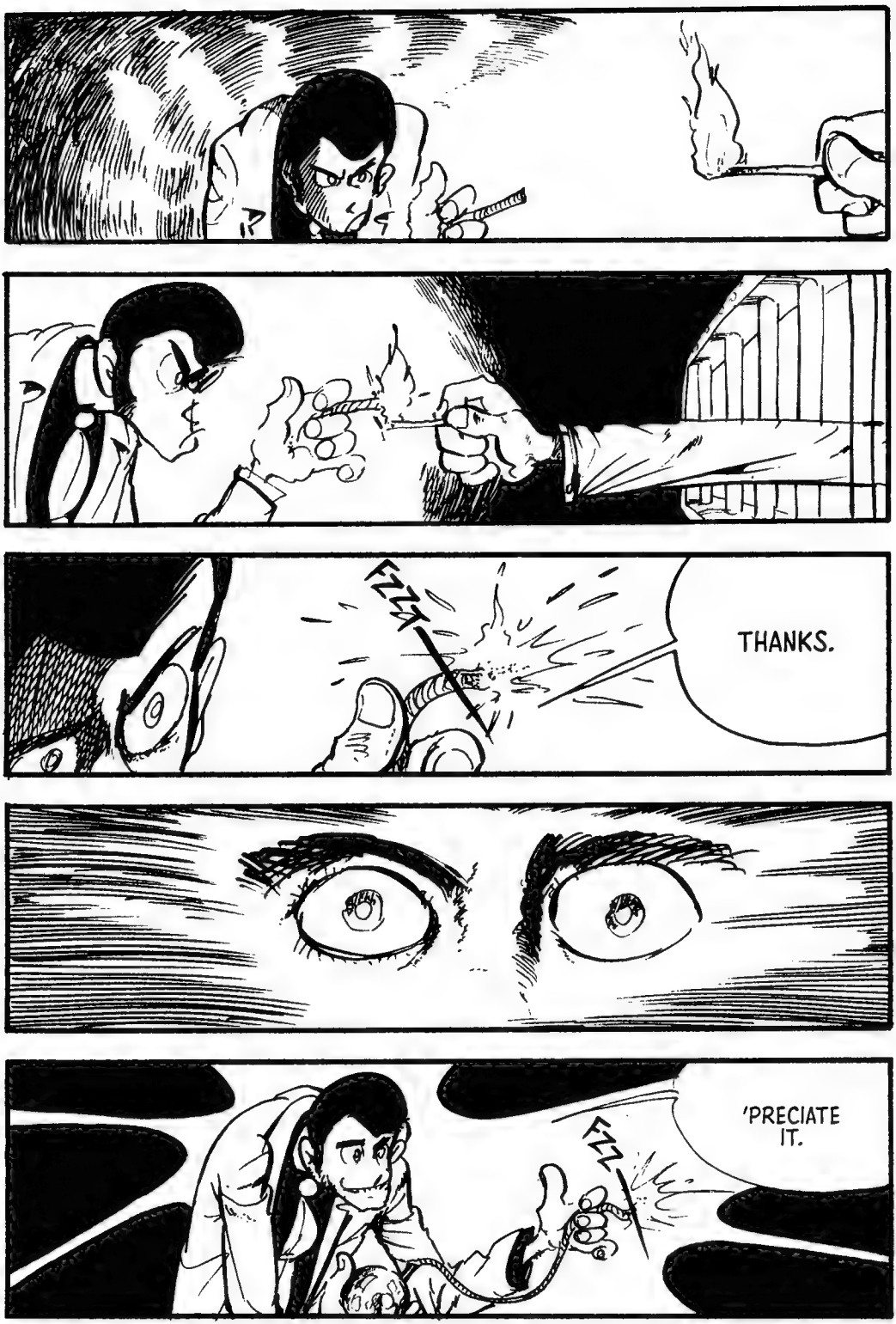


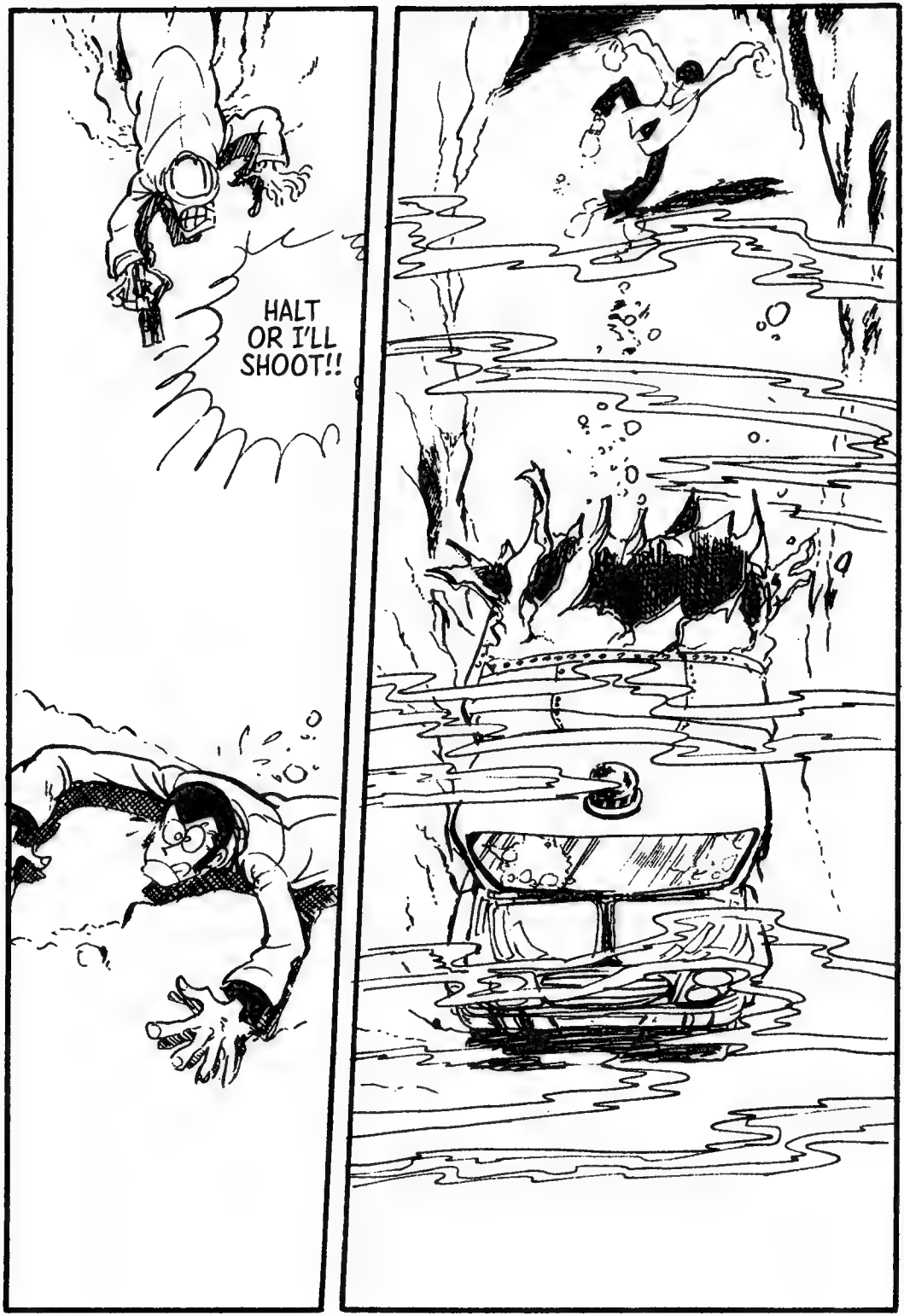

HOW'S THE RIDE FEEL BACK THERE, *HMM?* IT'S GOTTA BE A SPECIAL ONE, I BET!
HA HA HA HA! I'VE BEEN A DETECTIVE FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, AND I'VE NEVER HAD AS MUCH **FUN** AS I HAD TODAY!

WANT A SMOKE?

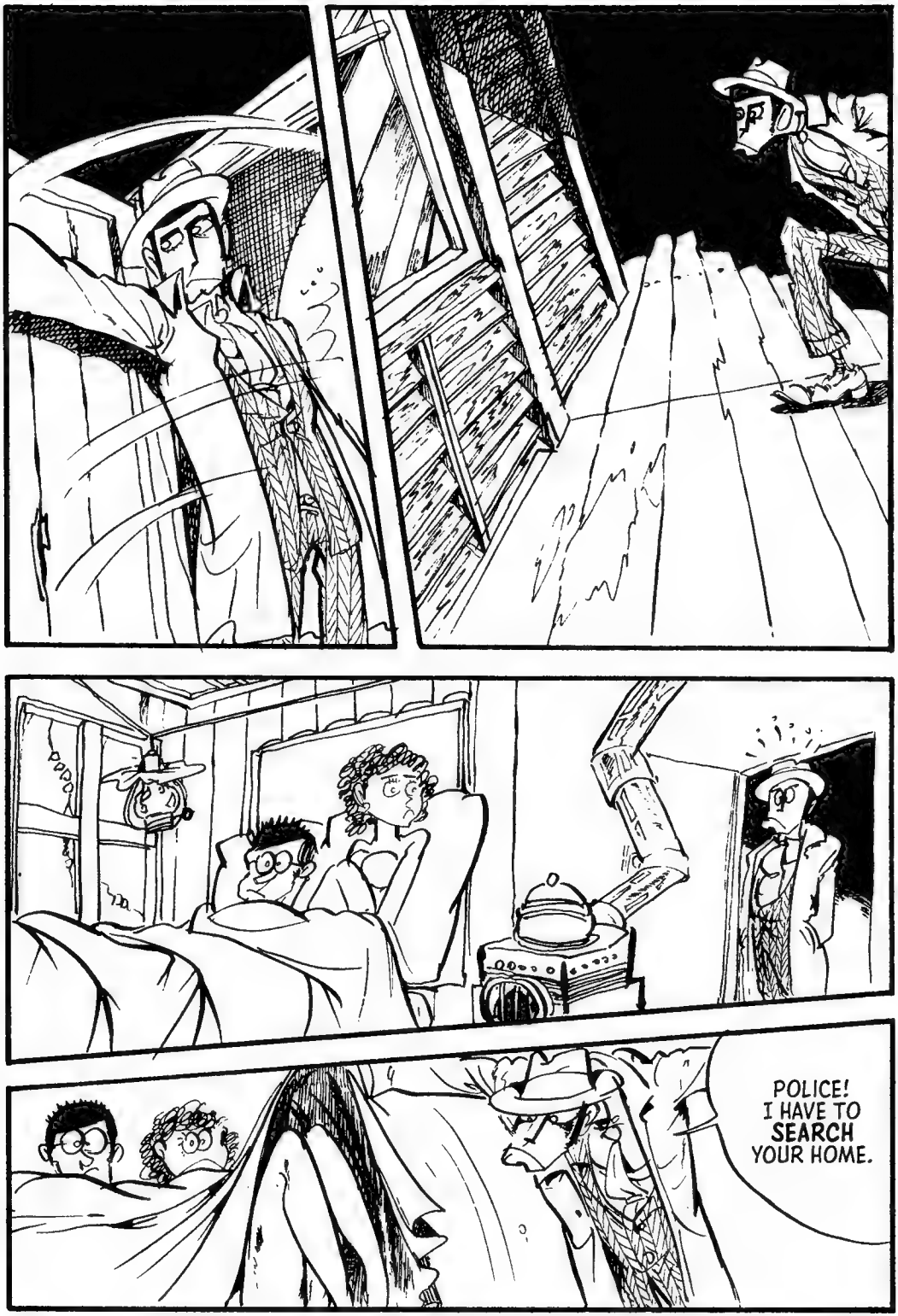
HERE. HAVE A LIGHT.


VROOOOOO

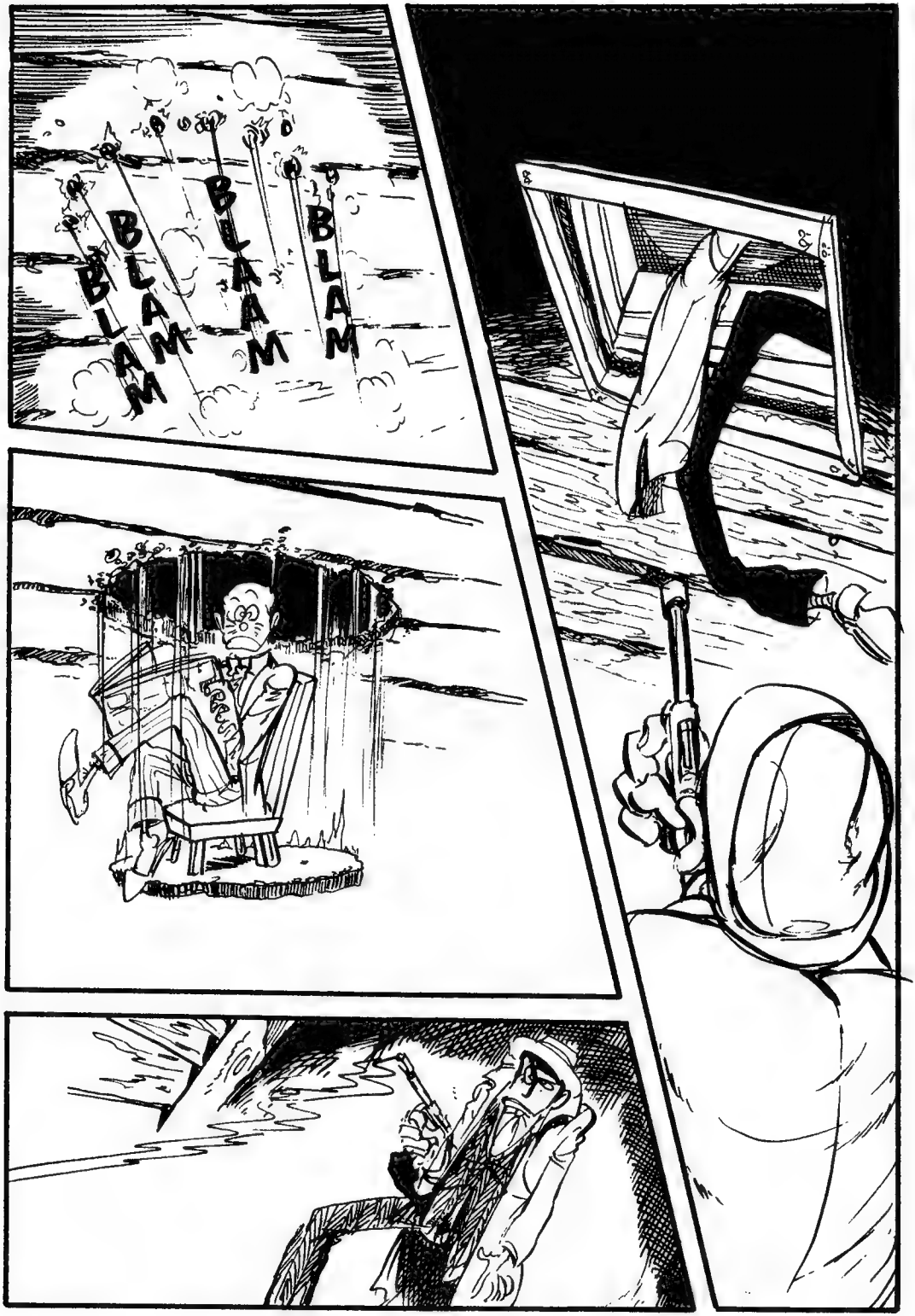

FZZZ
THANKS.
'PRECIATE IT.
FZZ


HALT
OR I'LL
SHOOT!!

HUFF!
WHEEZE!
HAFF!


POLICE! I HAVE TO SEARCH YOUR HOME.

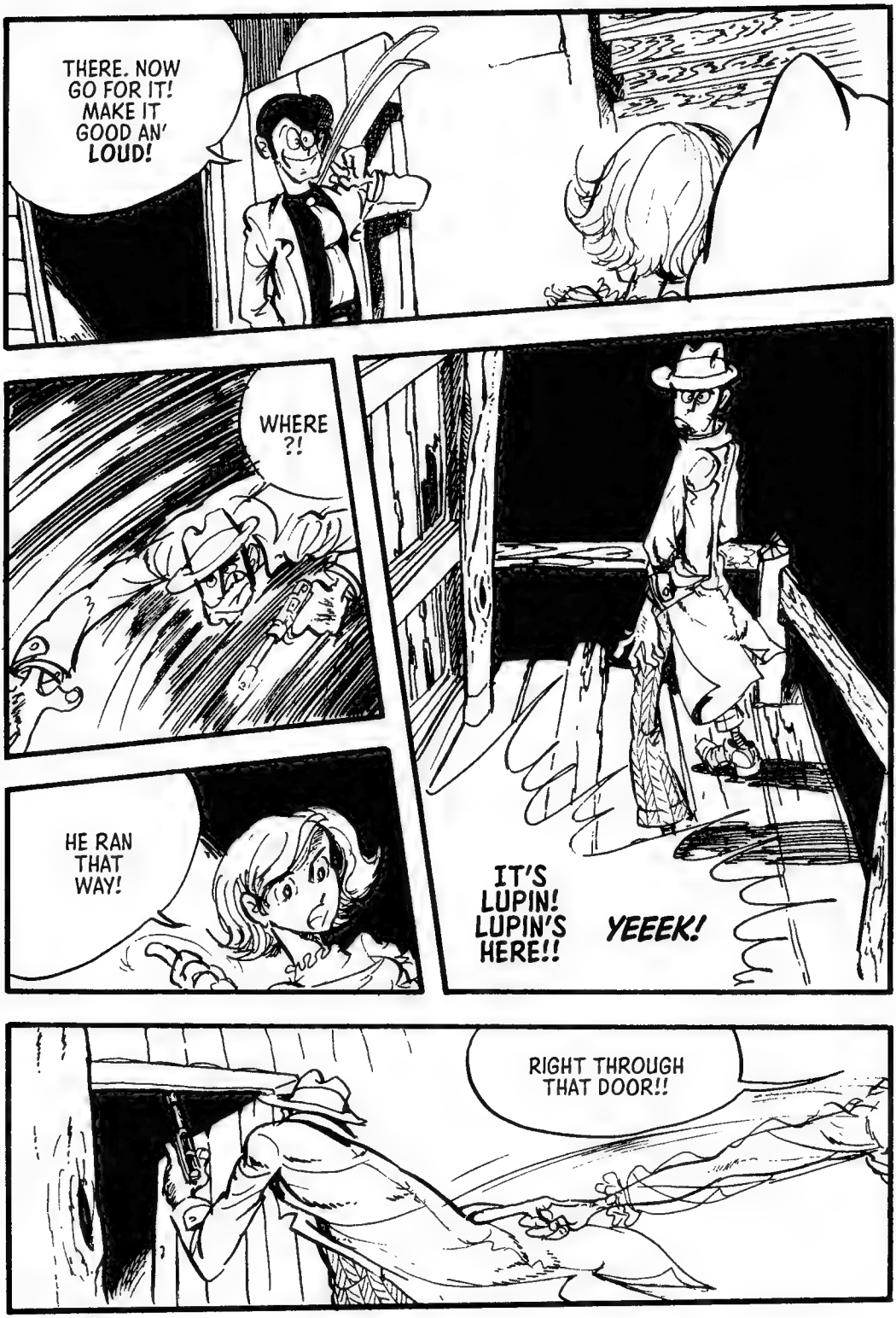
AHA!


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

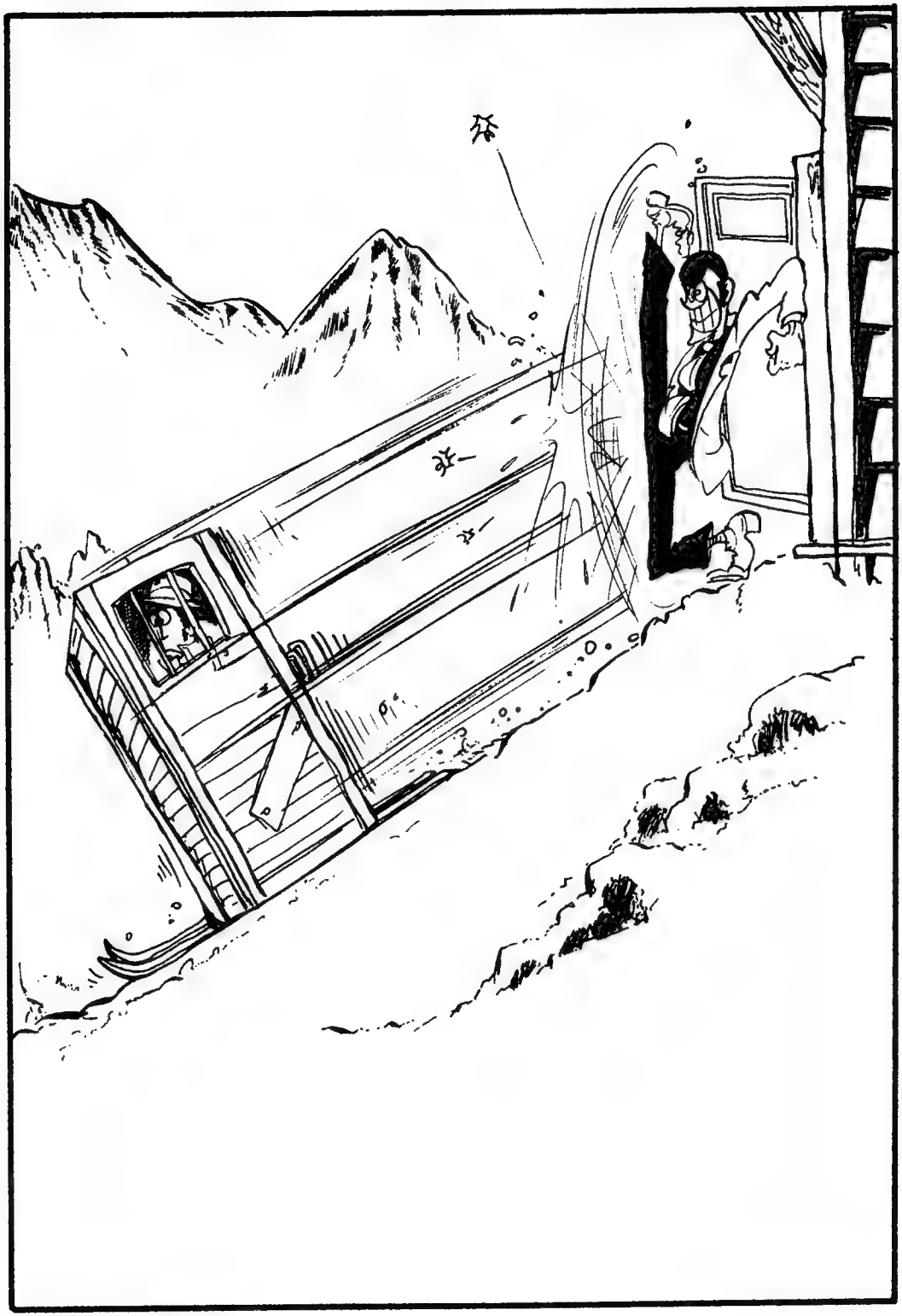
AAIEEEE!!

NOW. HOW FAR IS IT TO THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN?
SHH! NOT ONE PEEP.
OH, IT'S A GOOD **TWELVE MILES.** WHY, JUST THE OTHER DAY MY SKIS SLIPPED OFF MY FEET...
I SEE.
TWELVE WHOLE MILES! ALL BY THEM-SELVES!
HO!
HO!
HO!
HO!
HO!
HO!
HO!
AND, WITH NOTHING TO STOP THEM, THEY SLID *AAALL* THE WAY DOWN TO THE BOTTOM!

WELL, TOOTS? HOW ABOUT YOU ABET ME?
SURE THING~!
SO, YOU'RE THE MAN THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR?
BASICALLY.
GWAK

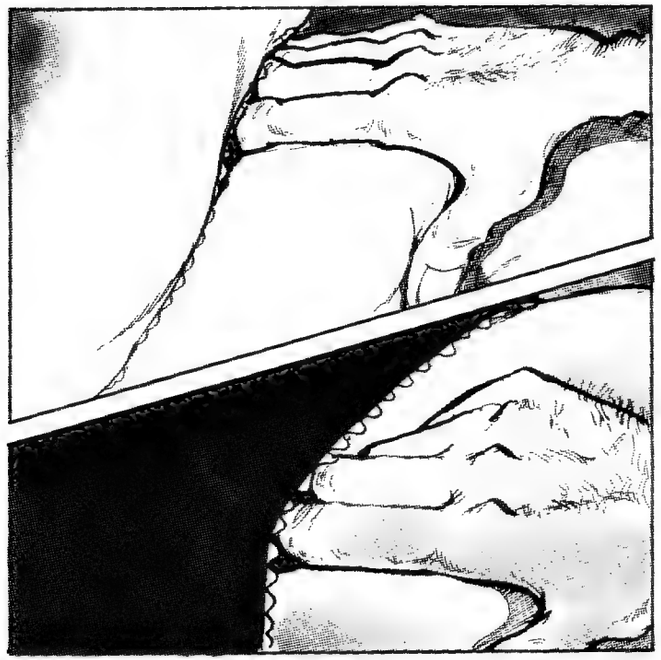

THERE. NOW GO FOR IT! MAKE IT GOOD AN' LOUD!
WHERE ?!
HE RAN THAT WAY!
IT'S LUPIN! LUPIN'S HERE!!
YEEEK!
RIGHT THROUGH THAT DOOR!!

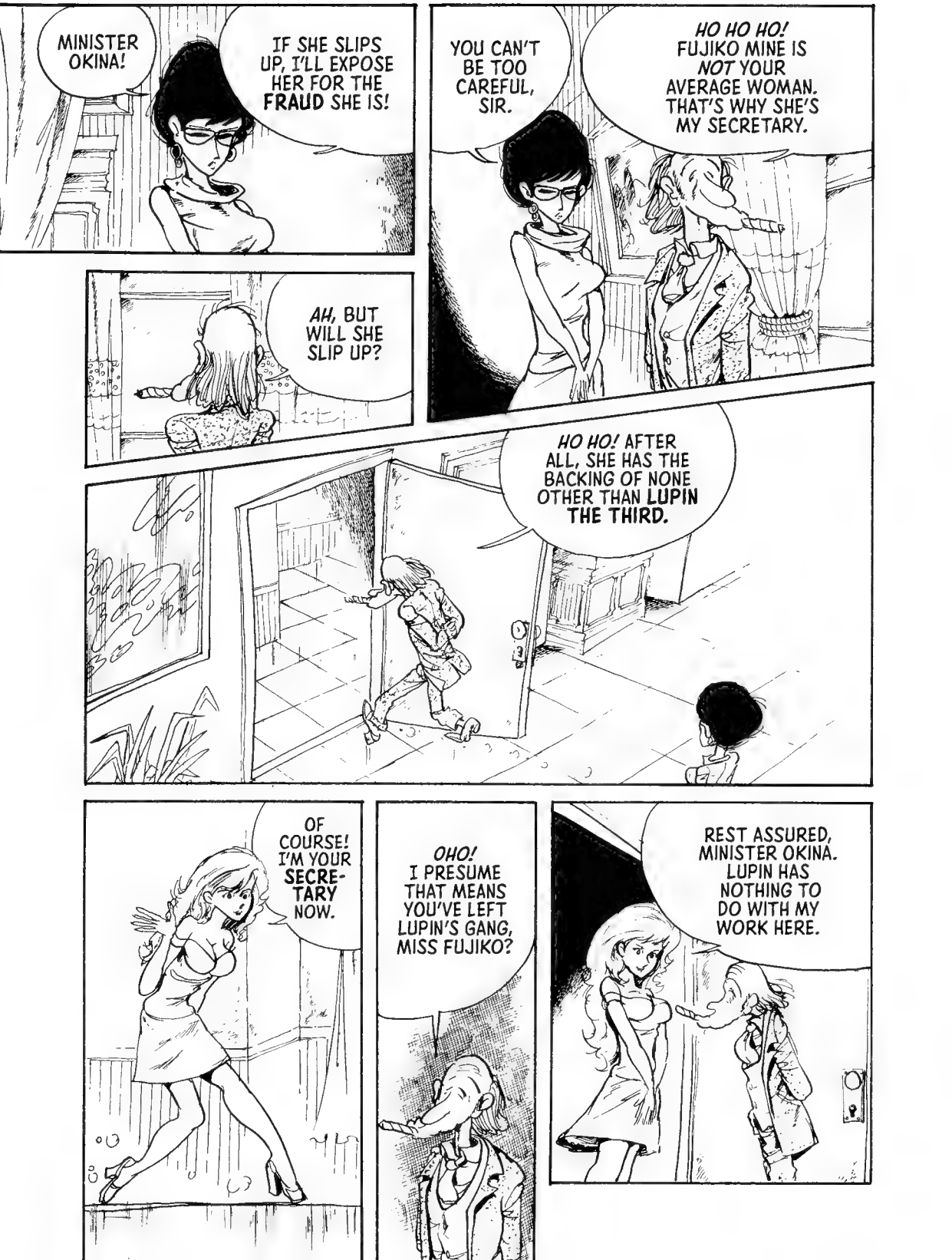
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP, LUPIN! YOU KNOW YOU THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
ALL RIGHT! I'M COMING IN!!
HRM?!
HEH! TURNABOUT AND ALL THAT, ZENIGATA.

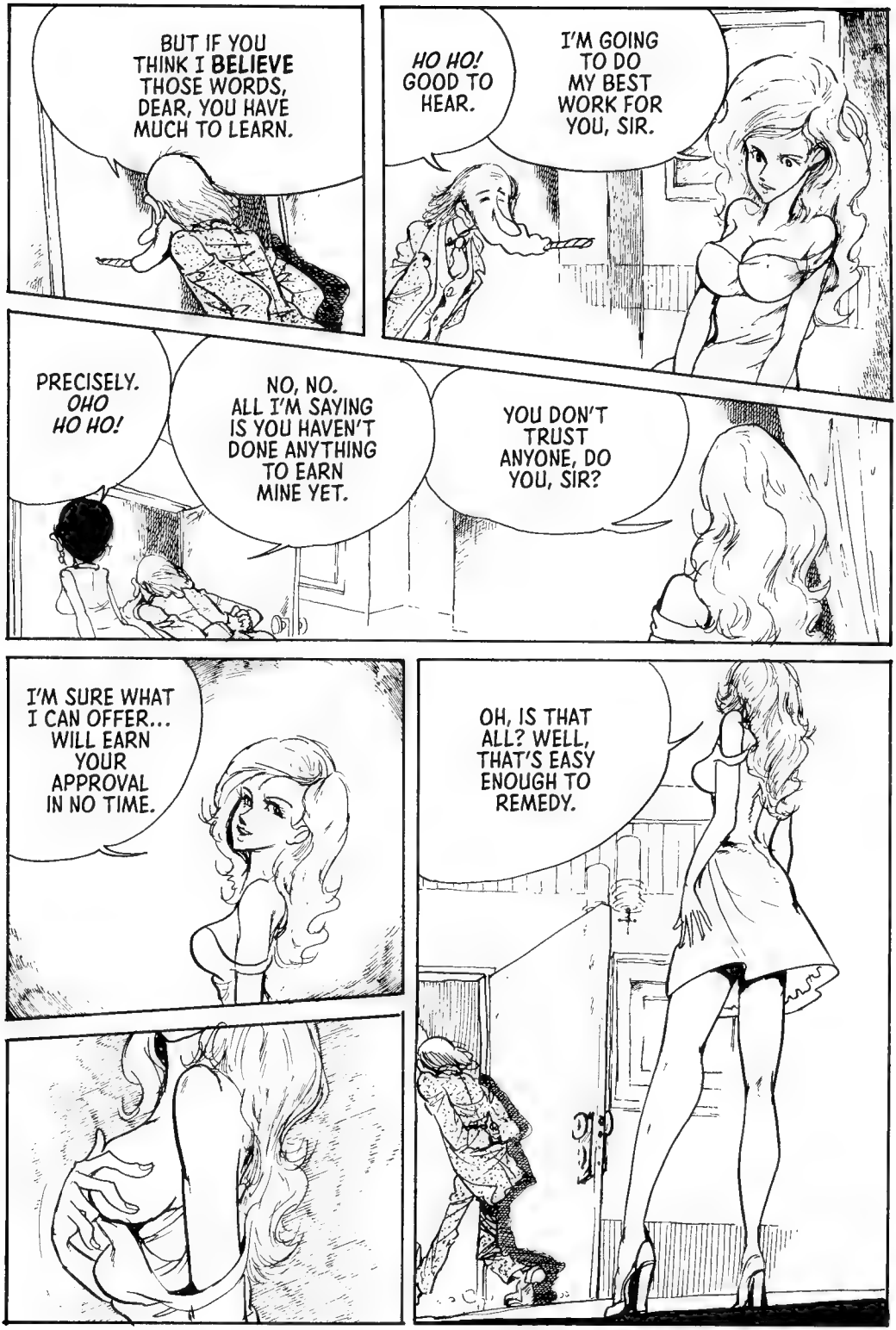


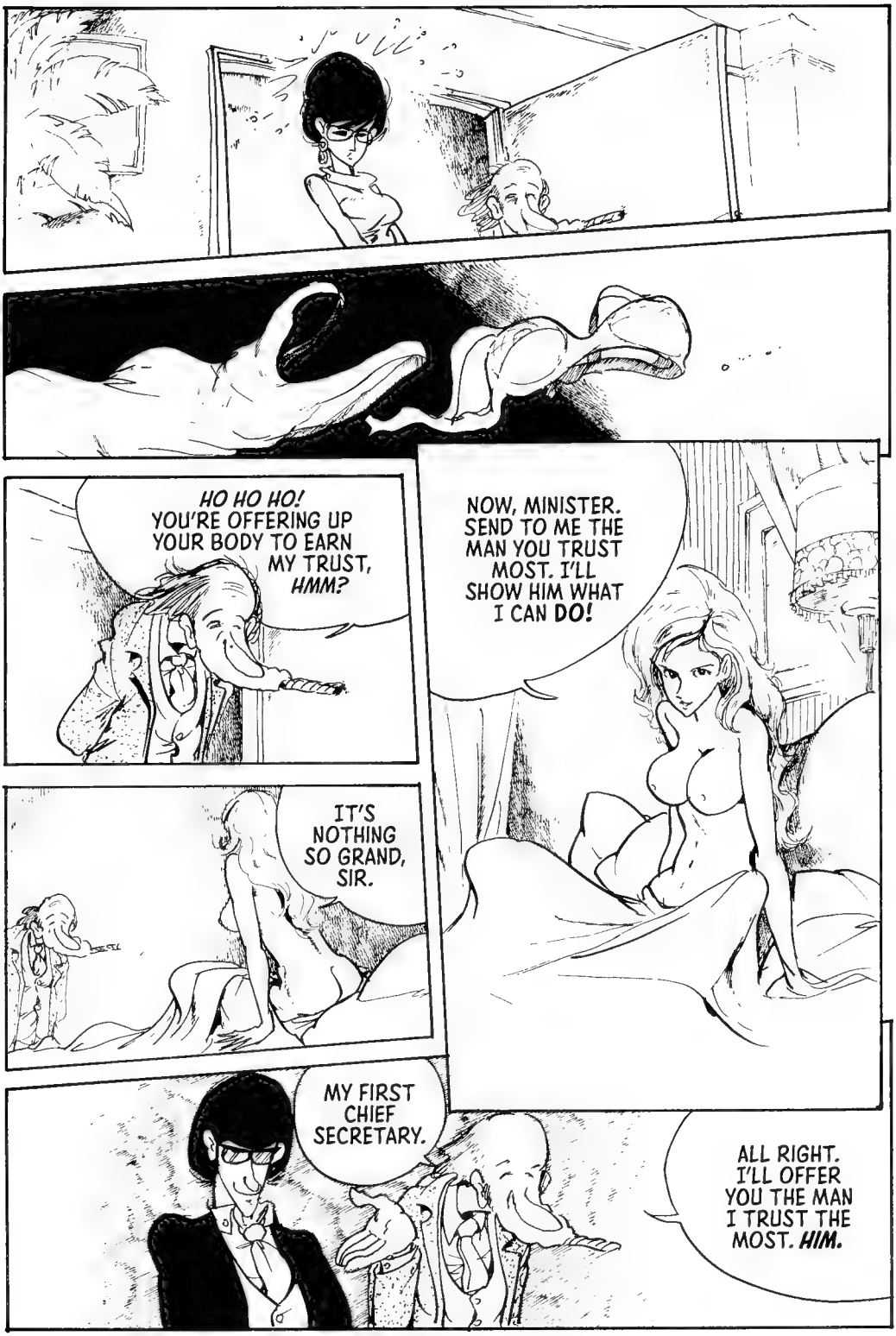
Gotcha! / END

The Immortal Fujiko

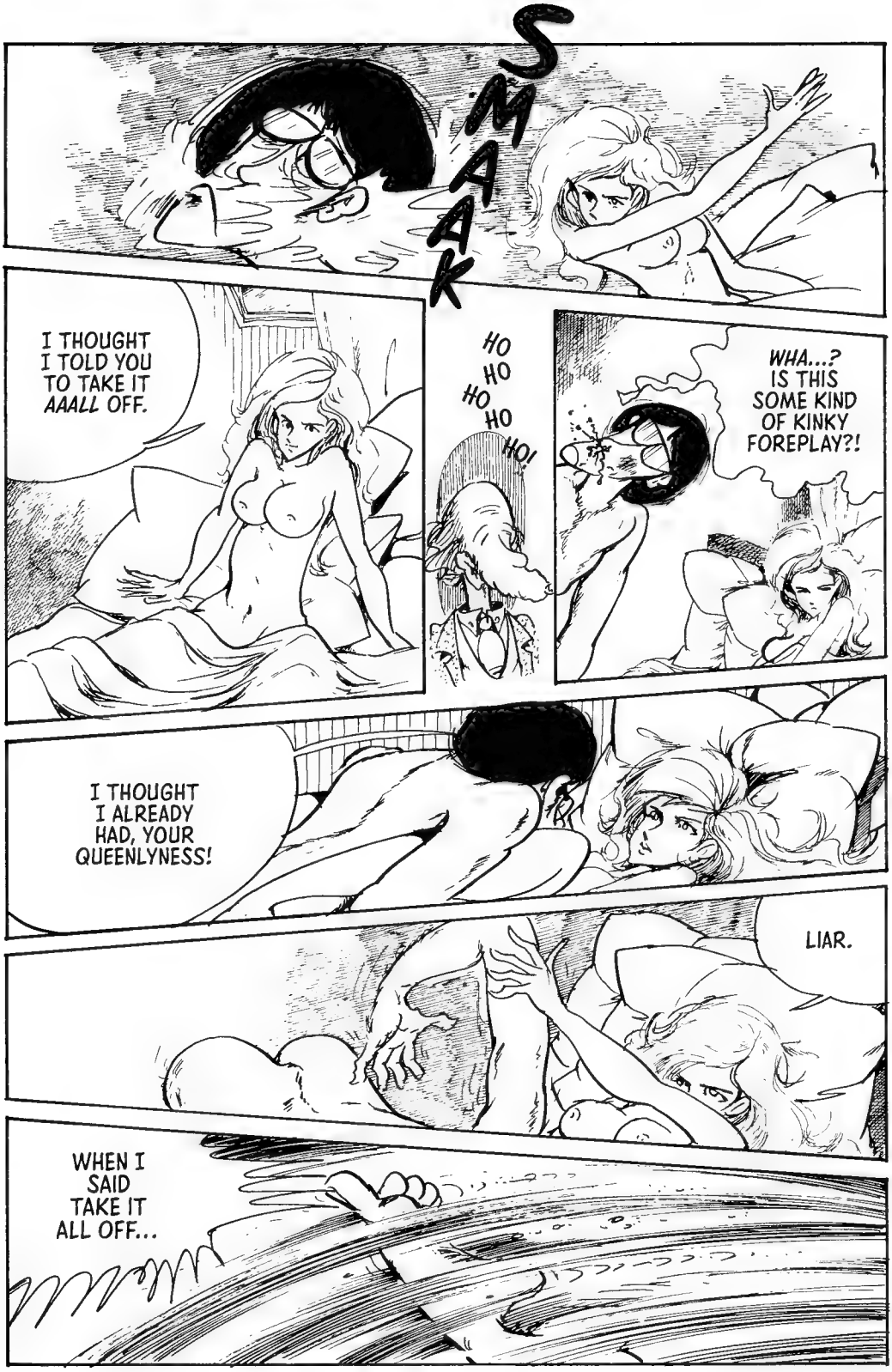



MINISTER OKINA!
IF SHE SLIPS UP, I'LL EXPOSE HER FOR THE **FRAUD** SHE IS!
YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, SIR.
HO HO HO! FUJIKO MINE IS *NOT* YOUR AVERAGE WOMAN. THAT'S WHY SHE'S MY SECRETARY.
AH, BUT WILL SHE SLIP UP?
HO HO! AFTER ALL, SHE HAS THE BACKING OF NONE OTHER THAN **LUPIN THE THIRD.**
OF COURSE! I'M YOUR **SECRETARY** NOW.
OHO! I PRESUME THAT MEANS YOU'VE LEFT LUPIN'S GANG, MISS FUJIKO?
REST ASSURED, MINISTER OKINA. LUPIN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY WORK HERE.


BUT IF YOU THINK I **BELIEVE** THOSE WORDS, DEAR, YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.
HO HO! GOOD TO HEAR.
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST WORK FOR YOU, SIR.
PRECISELY. *OHO HO HO!*
NO, NO. ALL I'M SAYING IS YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO EARN MINE YET.
YOU DON'T TRUST ANYONE, DO YOU, SIR?
I'M SURE WHAT I CAN OFFER... WILL EARN YOUR APPROVAL IN NO TIME.
OH, IS THAT ALL? WELL, THAT'S EASY ENOUGH TO REMEDY.


HO HO HO! YOU'RE OFFERING UP YOUR BODY TO EARN MY TRUST, HMM?
NOW, MINISTER. SEND TO ME THE MAN YOU TRUST MOST. I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT I CAN DO!
IT'S NOTHING SO GRAND, SIR.
MY FIRST CHIEF SECRETARY.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL OFFER YOU THE MAN I TRUST THE MOST. HIM.

MR. FIRST CHIEF SECRETARY.
HELLO...
YOU HAVE TO STRIP COMPLETELY, FIRST.
ARE YOU SURE, SIR? THIS SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
I CAN'T SAY HOW SEX HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH EARNING MY TRUST, BUT I'LL CERTAINLY WATCH.
OH, IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH IT.
IF YOU SAY SO.


SMAAK
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO TAKE IT AAALL OFF.
HO HO HO HO HO!
WHA...? IS THIS SOME KIND OF KINKY FOREPLAY?!
I THOUGHT I ALREADY HAD, YOUR QUEENLYNESS!
LIAR.
WHEN I SAID TAKE IT ALL OFF...

I MEANT THE MASK, TOO!!
MY WORD! THAT MAN IS NOT MY FIRST CHIEF SECRETARY!
DON'T WORRY. IT'S SAFE. I KNOCKED HIM OUT COLD.
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK IF YOU'D LIKE.

SIMPLE, SIR. I JUST GRABBED HIM BY THE BALLS AND **SQUEEZED** AS HARD AS I COULD...
CLENCH
IMPRESSIVE! HOW DID YOU DO THAT, MISS FUJIKO?
WITH *THIS.*
LUPIN THE THIRD, SIR.
IS THAT...?

SO IT IS!
HO HO HO! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE. I THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE AFTER WHAT'S IN MY HEAD.
NOT THAT HE WOULD'VE GOTTEN IT.
I WON'T TELL A SOUL.
AS YOU SHOULDN'T. PLEASE KEEP THE INFORMATION **SAFE**, SIR.
IT MUST BE KEPT FROM HUMANITY FOREVER.
THAT'S WHY I PROMISE I'LL GIVE YOU MY VERY BEST, MINISTER OKINA.

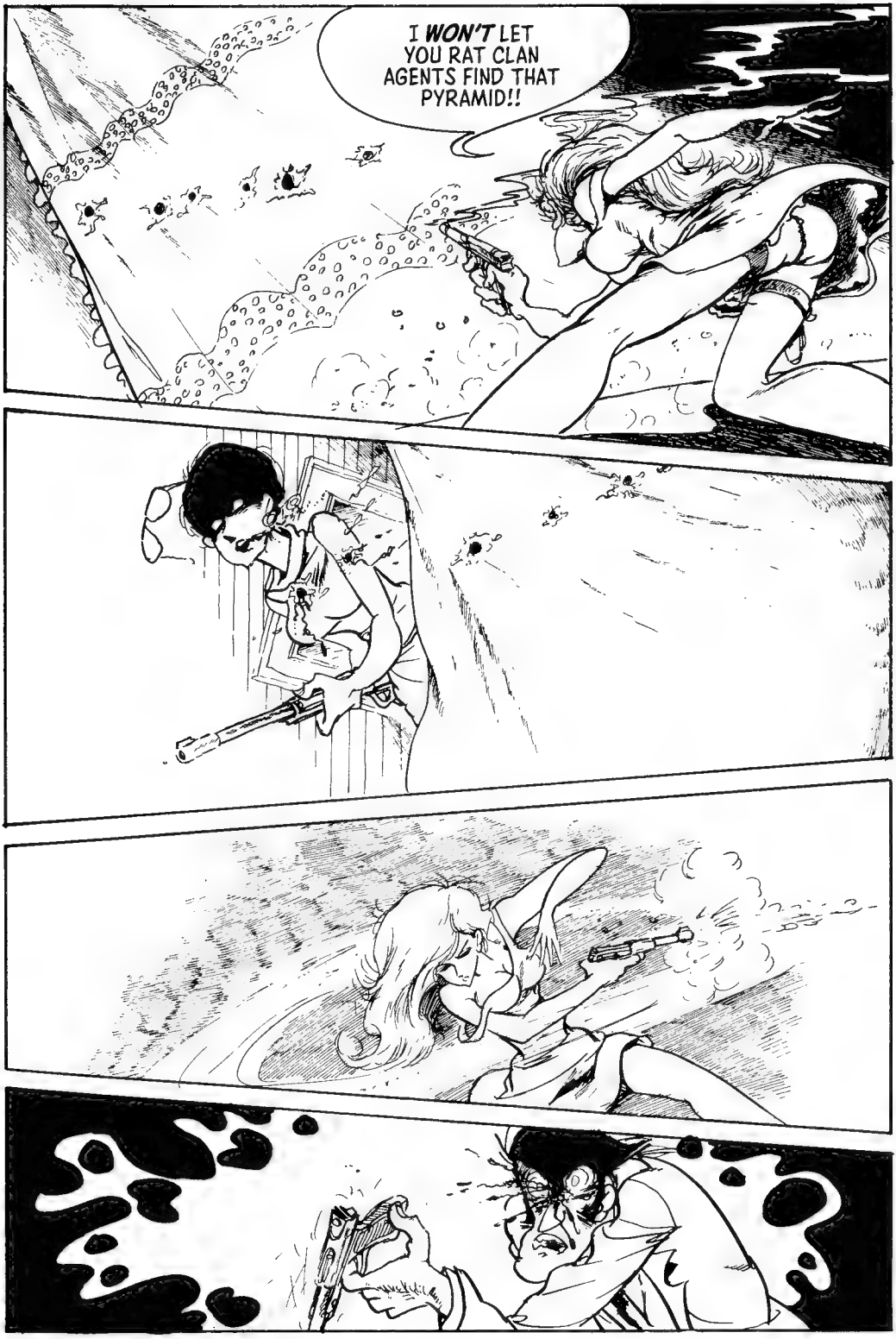
HO HO! WELL PLAYED, MISS FUJIKO. I THINK I MAY TRUST YOU A LITTLE.
AND THAT WAS IT.
FINALLY. SO FUJIKO'S GOT MINISTER OKINA'S TRUST NOW, RIGHT?
GOOD! EVERYTHING WENT EXACTLY HOW WE PLANNED IT.
BUT THE SACRIFICES IT CALLED FOR...!

HECK NO! HER SQUEEZING THE OL' YAM BAG *WASN'T* IN THE PLAN EITHER!
WE'VE NO GUARANTEE FUJIKO WON'T BETRAY US.
WE KNOW THE RAT CLAN'S GOT AGENTS IN THE OKINA ESTATE, TOO, AFTER THE EXACT SAME TARGET.
AND HE KNOWS THAT ALL TOO WELL, TOO.
BUT MINISTER OKINA'S GOT **CANCER.** HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED.
SO WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE. WE HAVE TO GET HIM TO SPILL HIS GUTS, AND SOON!
ALL WE CAN DO FOR NOW IS PRAY TO LADY LUCK.
THE RAT CLAN ARE NO DUMMIES. THEY'LL CLASH WITH FUJIKO AT SOME POINT!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN RISK CRASHING HIS MANSION. **NOT YET!**

NONSENSE. YOU HAVE **MANY** YEARS AHEAD OF YOU, SIR.
FUJIKO. I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT.
I THINK I CAN TRUST YOU WITH THE SECRET I KEEP INSIDE MY HEAD.
THEY'RE THE EYES OF SOMEONE WHO WON'T BETRAY ME.
YOUR EYES ARE BEAUTIFULLY CLEAR, TODAY.
NO. PLEASE, KEEP IT STORED SAFELY IN YOUR MIND LIKE A PRECIOUS GEM.
NO! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
I'LL LEAVE THE DECISION TO YOU. IS THE SECRET I HOLD SOMETHING THAT HUMANITY DESERVES TO KNOW? OR IS HUMANITY... UNWORTHY?

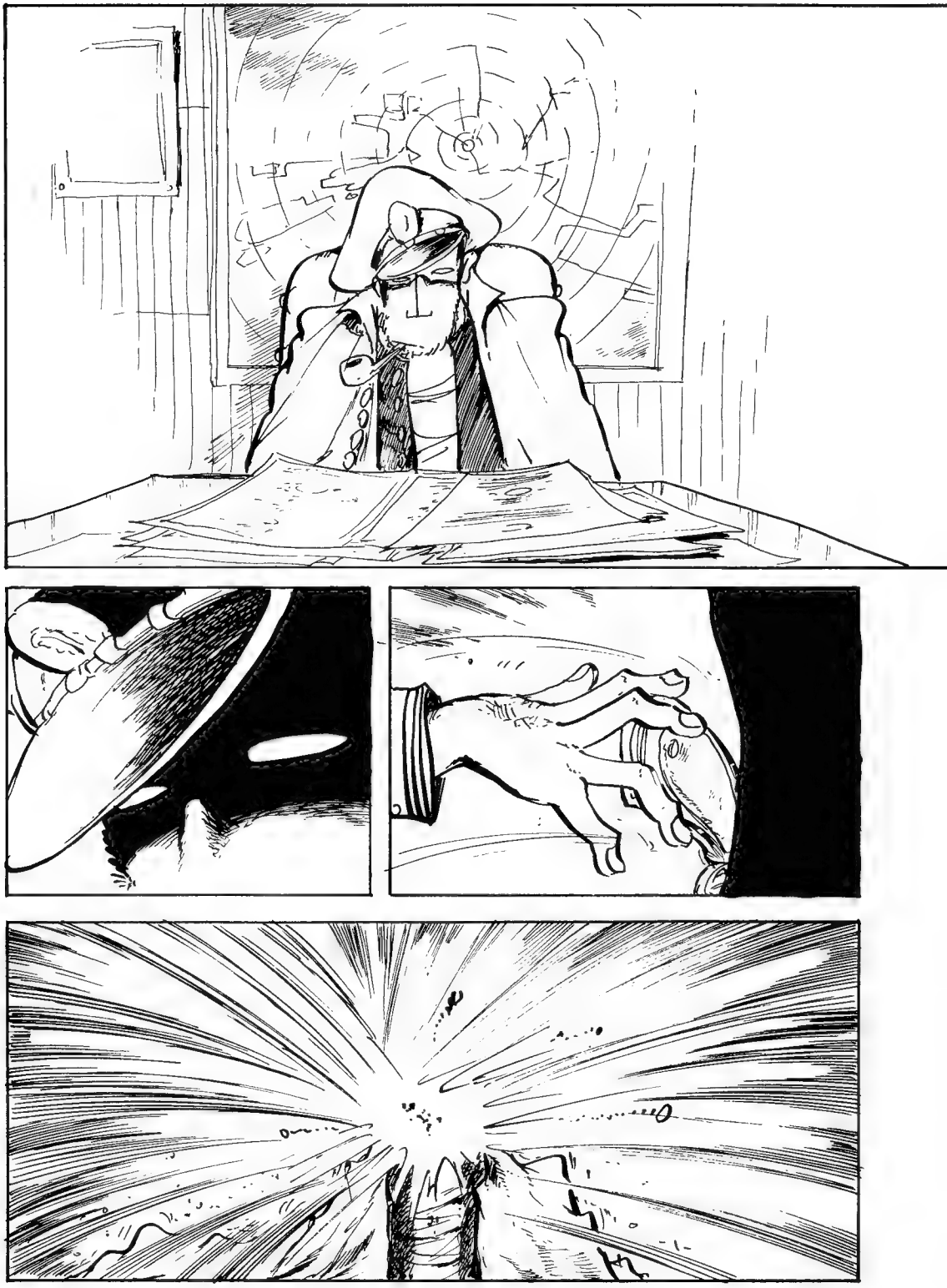
BEHOLD!

HE'S DEAD.
IT'S A MAP TO AN UNDISCOVERED PYRAMID OF PURE GOLD!
HE SURGICALLY CHANGED HIS FACE TO PROTECT THE SECRET, AND KEEP GRAVE ROBBERS FROM LOOTING THE PLACE...!
I'LL PROTECT IT, TOO!!


I *WON'T* LET YOU RAT CLAN AGENTS FIND THAT PYRAMID!!

The Immortal Fujiko / END

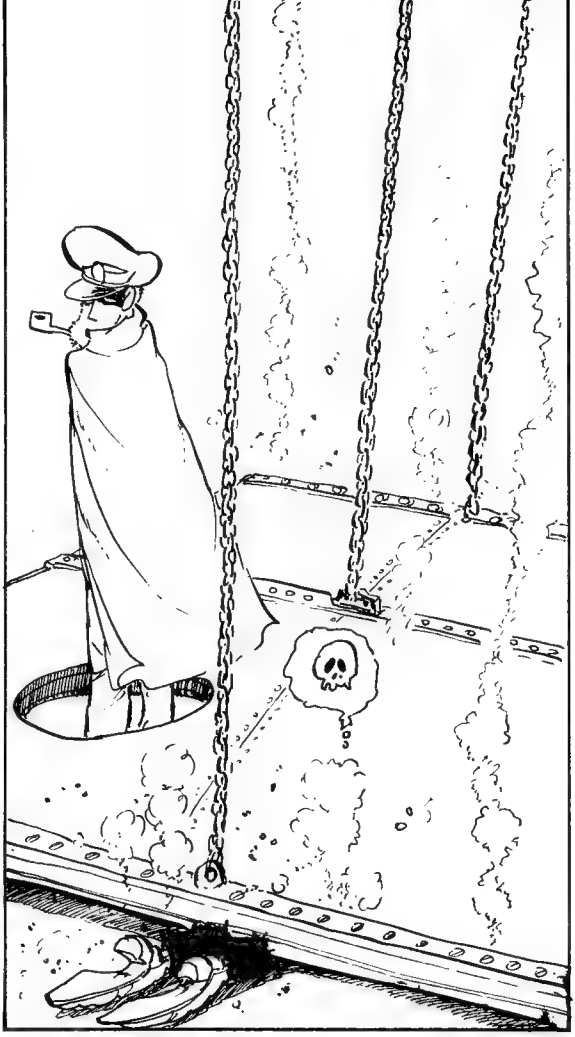
Prisoner Transport

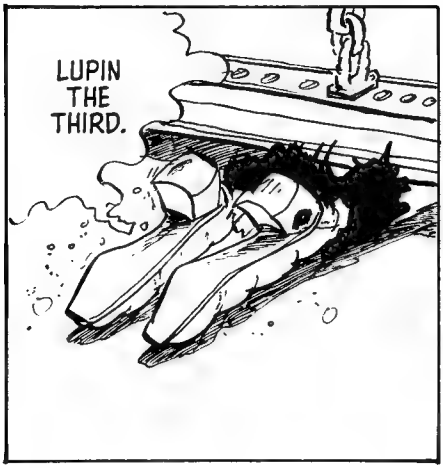


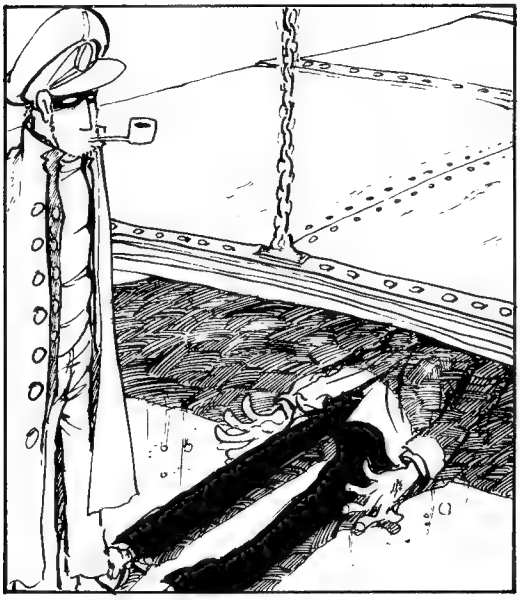
DON'T MOVE.
STAY RIGHT THERE
AND DON'T BUDGE
FOR THE NEXT
TEN MINUTES.

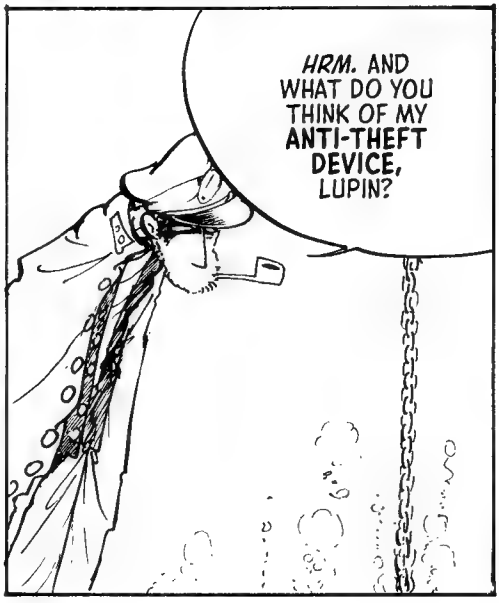
I SAID DON'T BUDGE!!
OPEN THE SAFE!
NOW STAND UP. SLOOOWLY!

LET'S HEAR YOUR NAME.



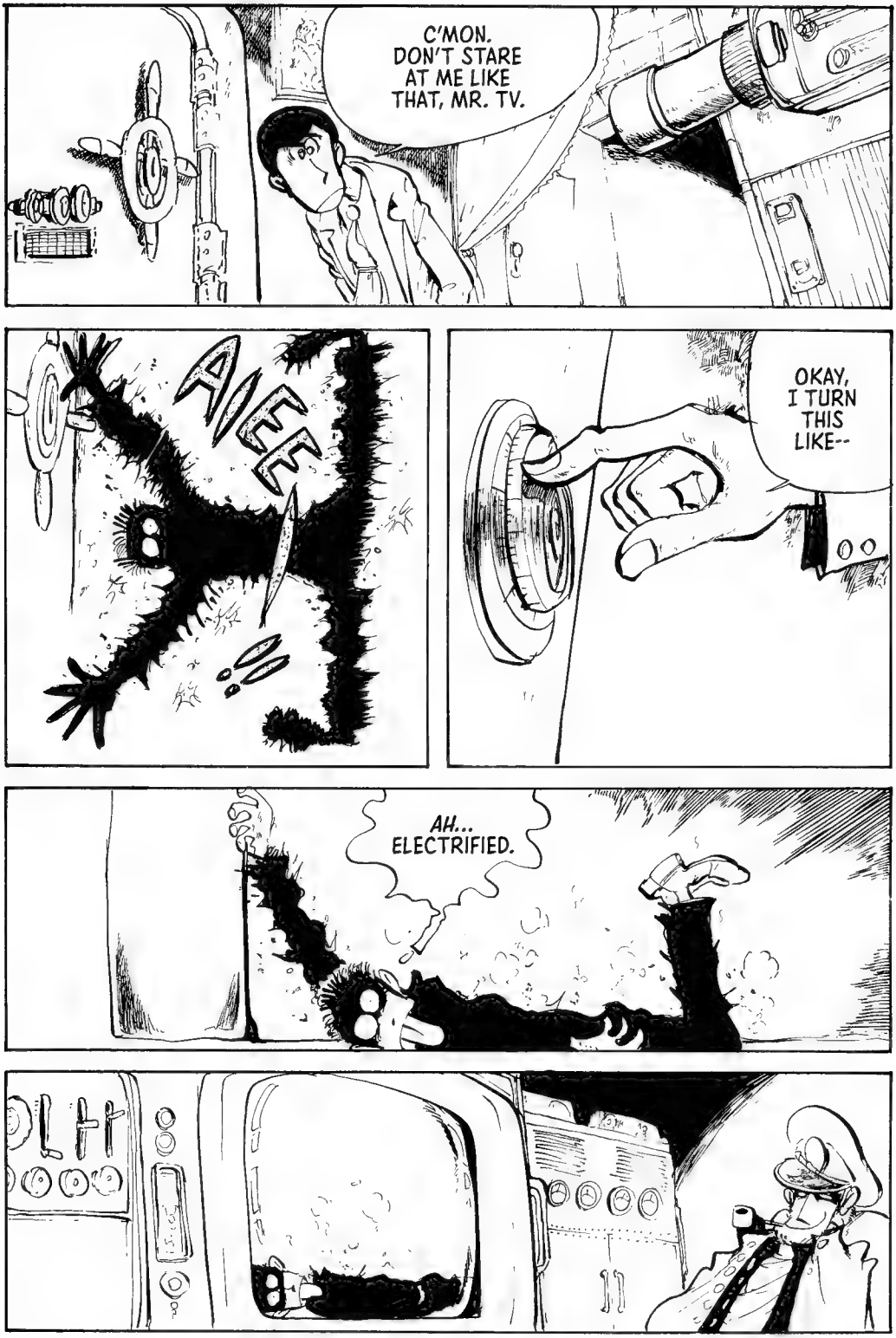

LUPIN THE THIRD.

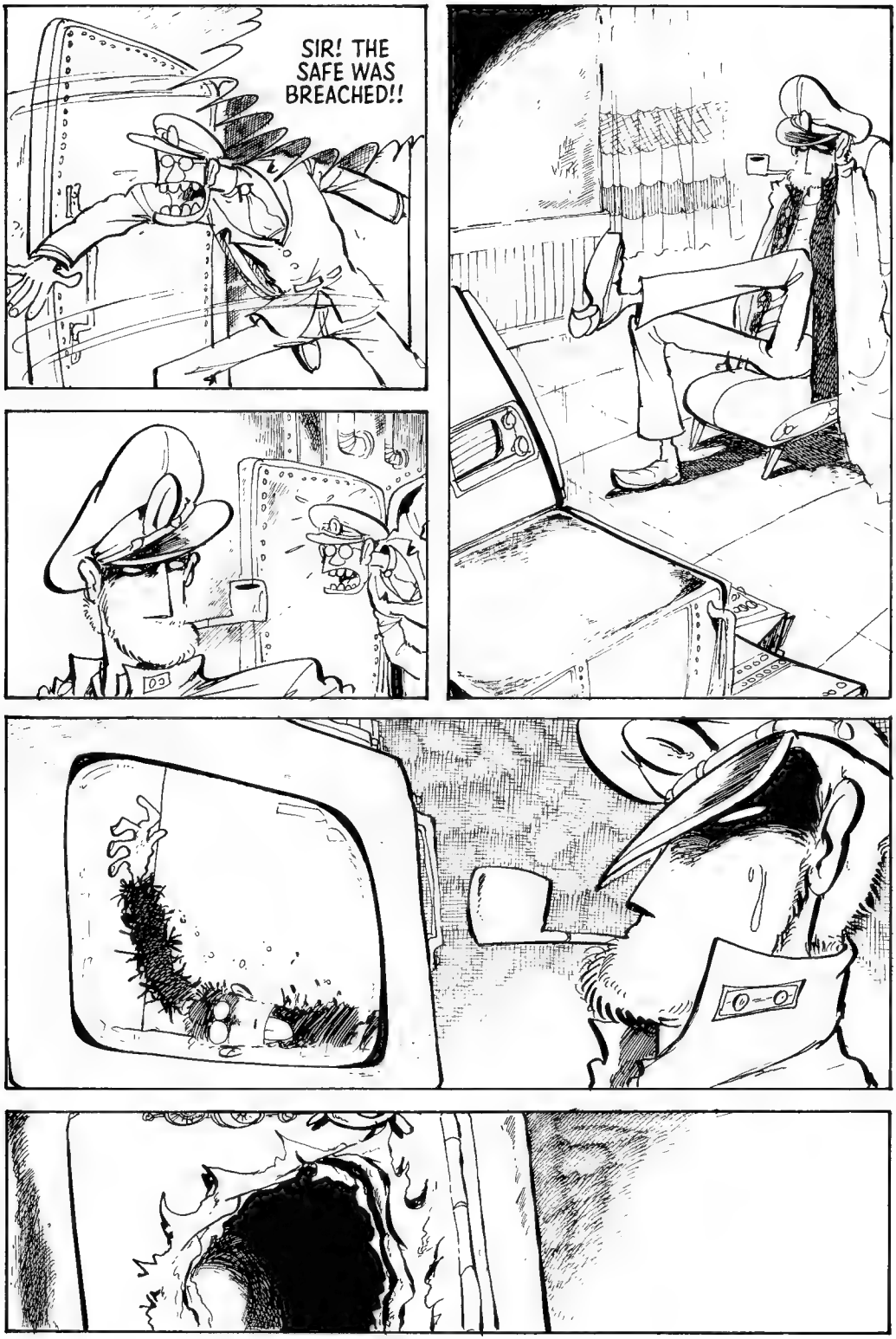



HRM. AND WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY **ANTI-THEFT DEVICE,** LUPIN?

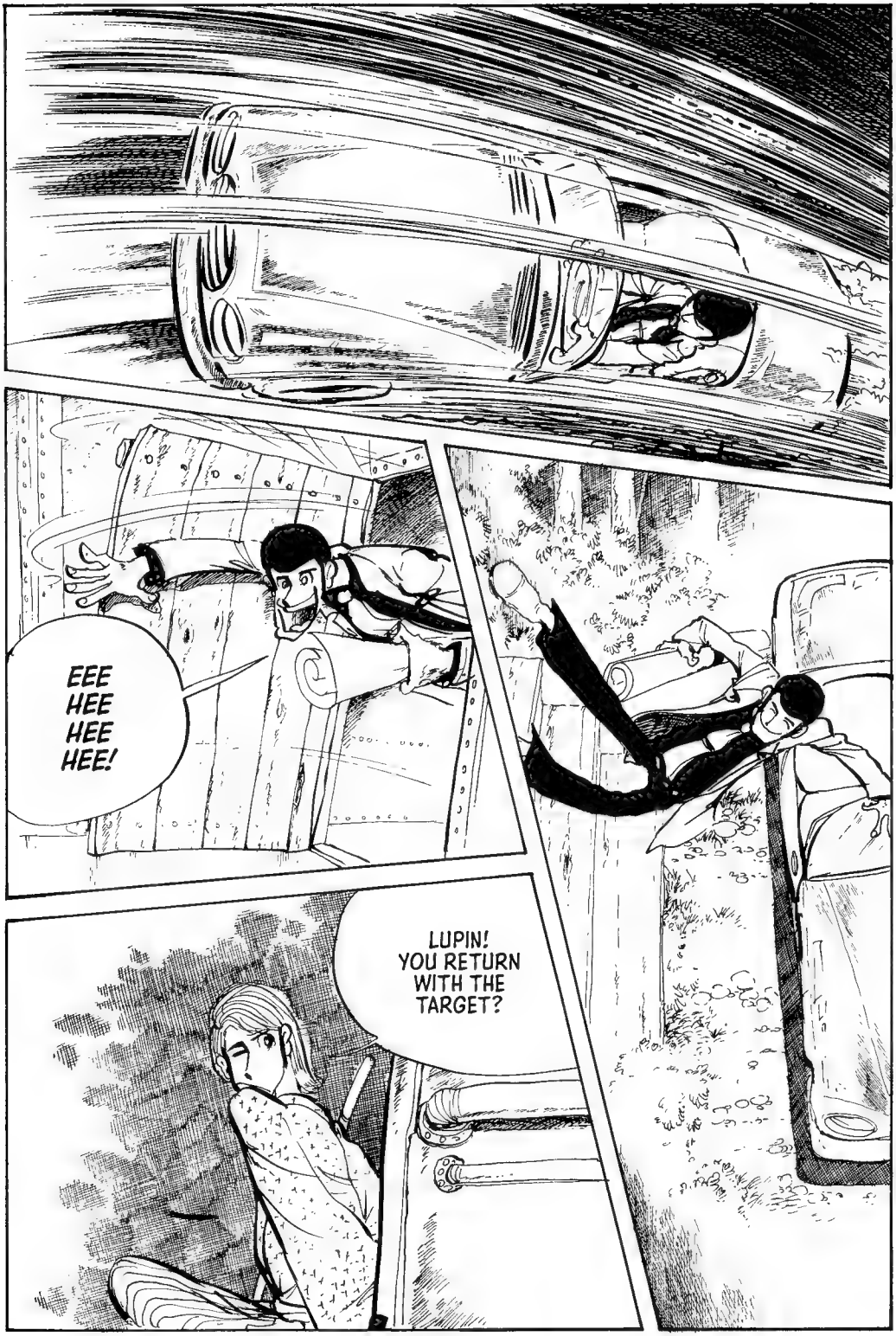
WELL? GONNA TURN ME OVER TO THE FUZZ NOW?
HA HA! I DON'T PLAN TO DEPLOY IT AGAIN!
IT GOT ME ONCE. IT WON'T GET ME AGAIN.
NO, NOT AT ALL! YOU'RE FREE TO GO. IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS BASE YOU WANT, YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY AND STEAL IT!
YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF "ANTI-THEFT DEVICES" SET UP EVERY-WHERE, AND WANT ME TO TEST THEM FOR YOU!
AHAAA! I SEE YOU.

IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT IN YOUR SKILLS, TEST THEM TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
OHO! THERE'S A WORKING BRAIN IN THAT SKULL!
AYE-AYE, SIR! I THINK I'LL DO JUST THAT!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
THE ONLY THING I WANTED WAS IN THAT SAFE.
GUESS IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT PLANNING AHEAD.
THAT SAID... NOW WHAT?

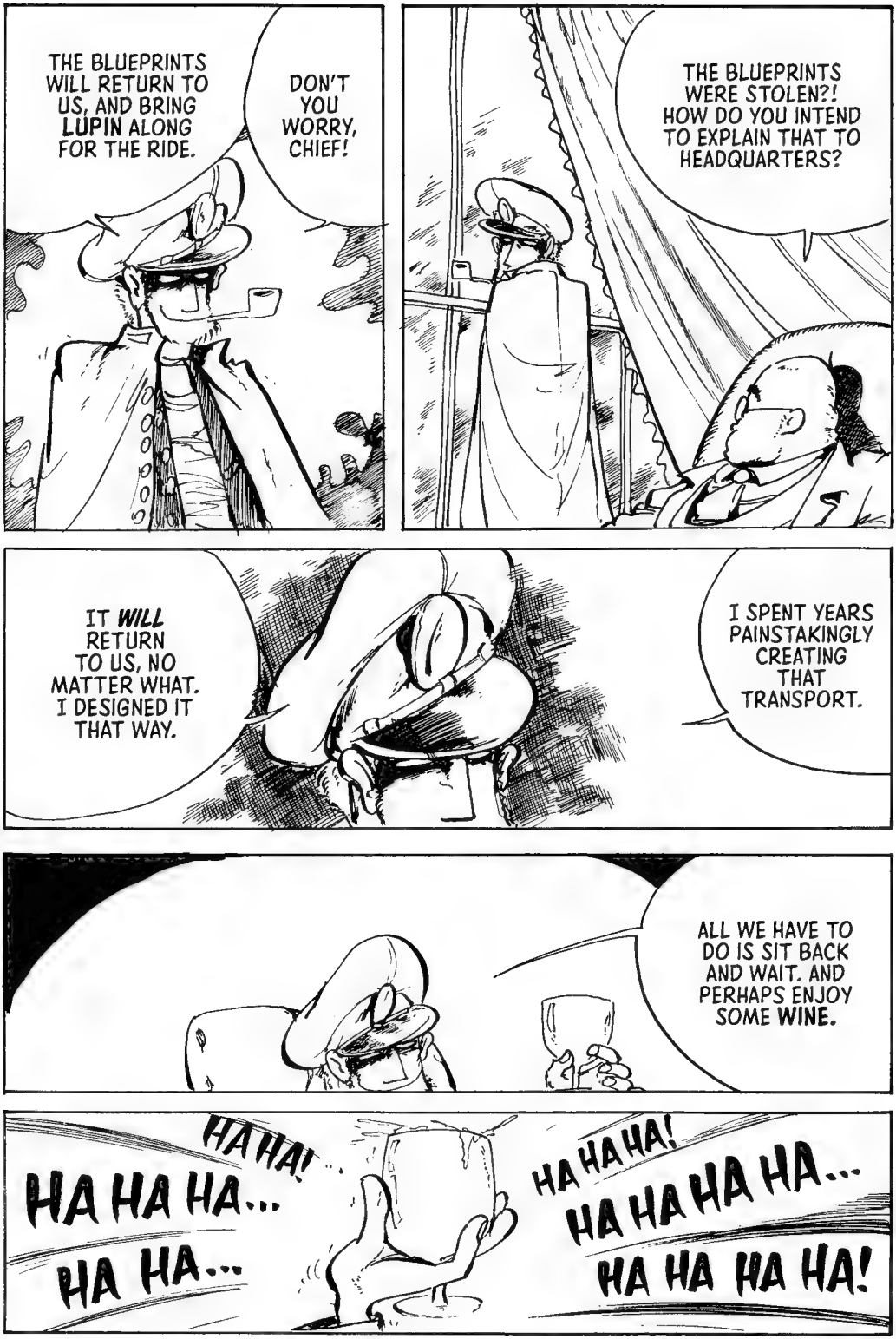

C'MON. DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT, MR. TV.
AIEE!
OKAY, I TURN THIS LIKE--
AH... ELECTRIFIED.

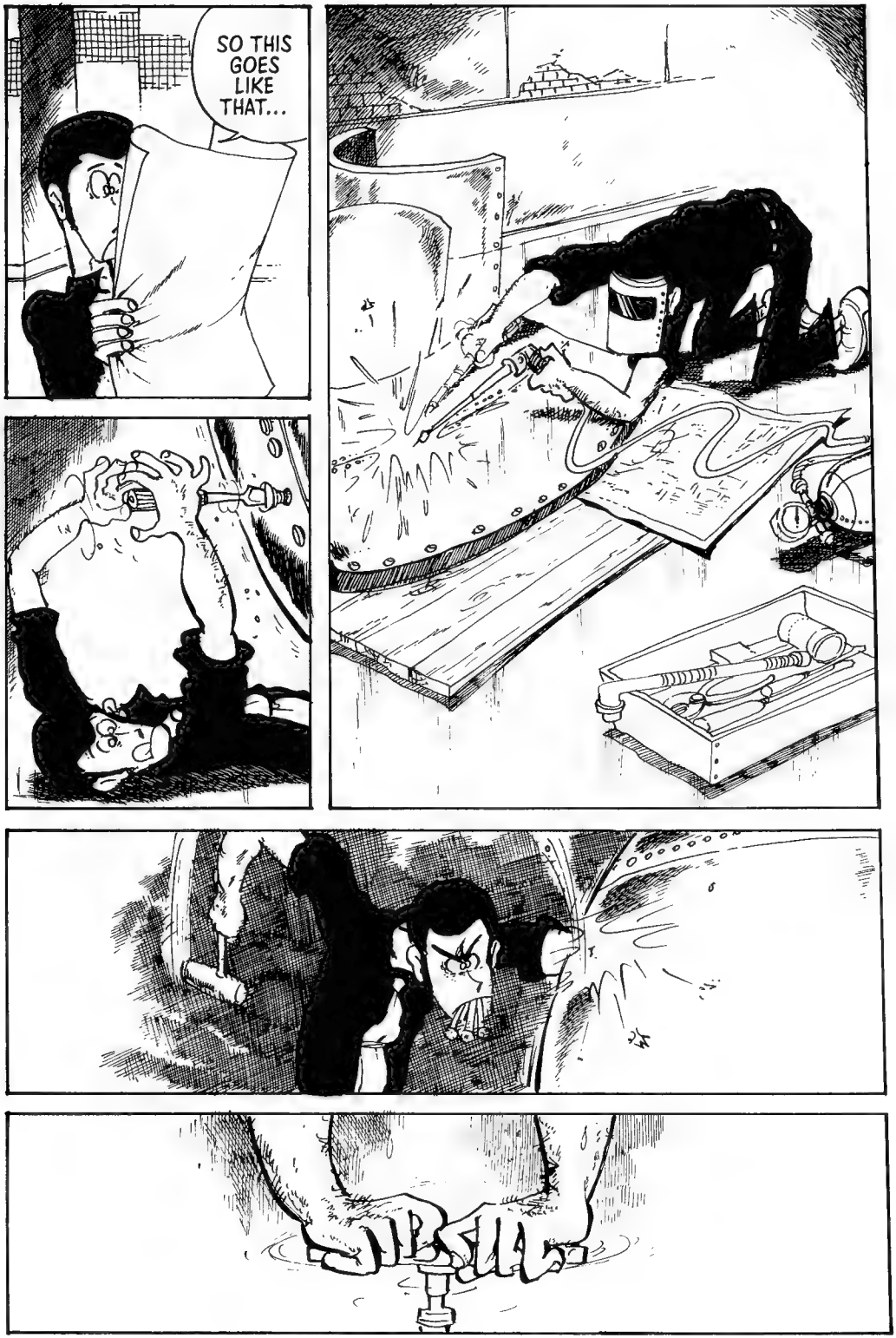

SIR! THE SAFE WAS BREACHED!!

NOT BAD, LUPIN THE THIRD!


EEE HEE HEE HEE!
LUPIN! YOU RETURN WITH THE TARGET?

I DON'T LIKE IT, LUPIN. IT WAS TOO EASY.
YOU BETCHA! *HYA HA HA!* IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE!!
HOW DOES IT WORK?!
SO THIS IS THE **BLUEPRINT** FOR THE SUPPOSEDLY "INESCAPABLE" PRISONER TRANSPORT.
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE **BUILD IT** AND SEE!
ARE WE SURE IT'S NOT A FAKE BLUEPRINT?

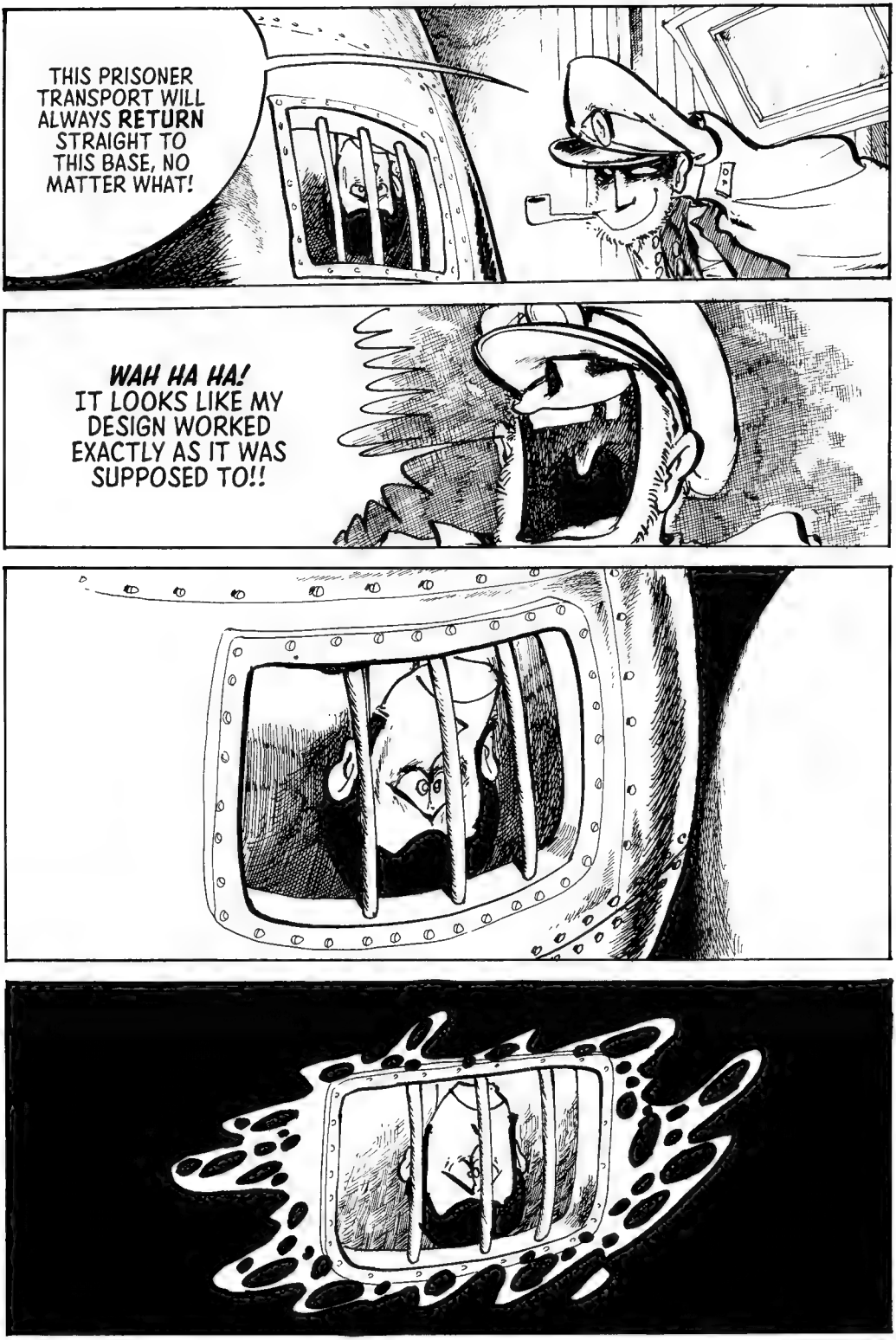

THE BLUEPRINTS WILL RETURN TO US, AND BRING LUPIN ALONG FOR THE RIDE.
DON'T YOU WORRY, CHIEF!
THE BLUEPRINTS WERE STOLEN?! HOW DO YOU INTEND TO EXPLAIN THAT TO HEADQUARTERS?
IT WILL RETURN TO US, NO MATTER WHAT. I DESIGNED IT THAT WAY.
I SPENT YEARS PAINSTAKINGLY CREATING THAT TRANSPORT.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SIT BACK AND WAIT. AND PERHAPS ENJOY SOME WINE.
HA HA!
HA HA HA...
HA HA...
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA...
HA HA HA HA!


SO THIS GOES LIKE THAT...

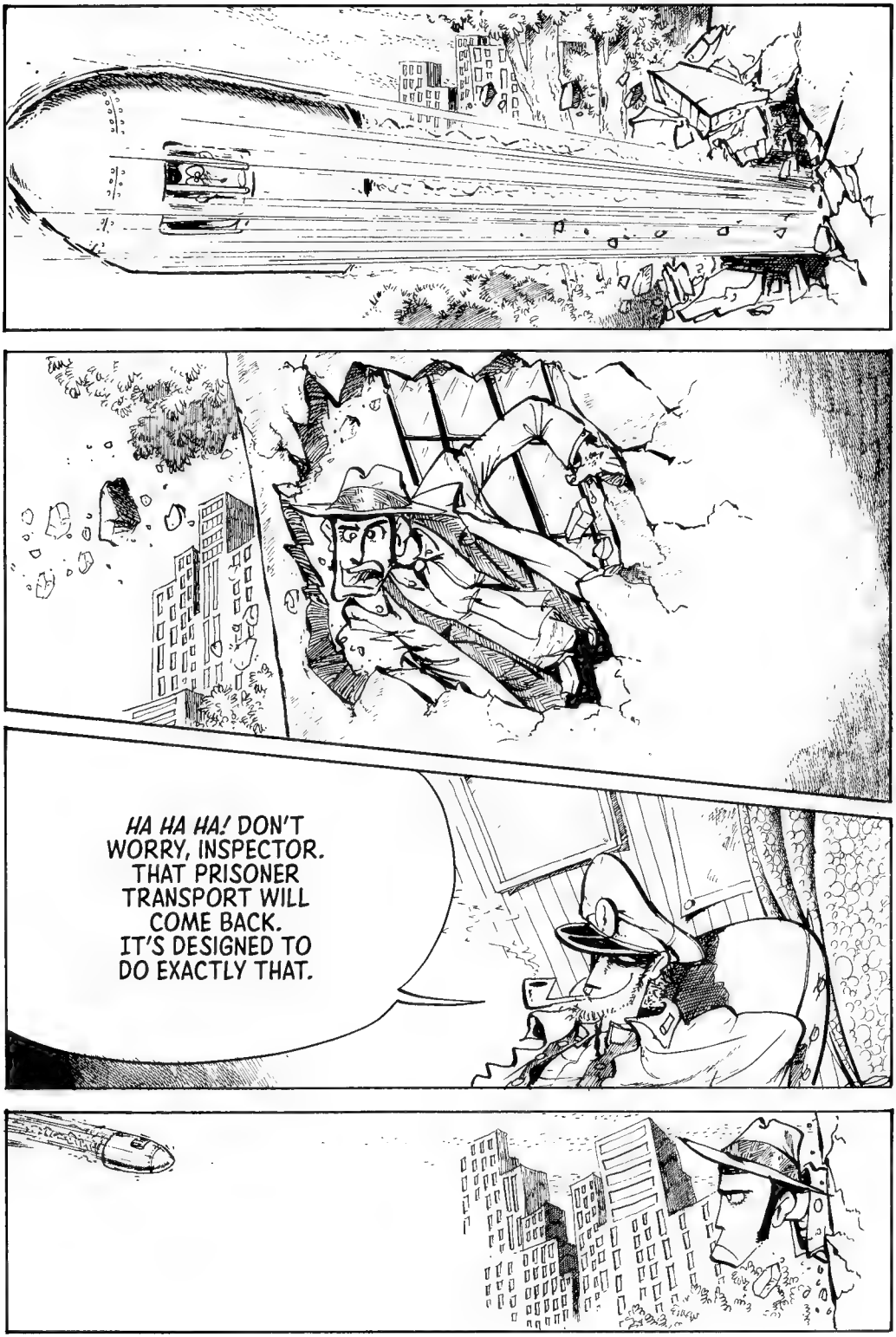
DONE!
HOW'S IT SUPPOSED TO WORK?
AT A GLANCE, IT APPEARS TO BE A SIMPLE METAL HUT.
THAT'S THE TRANSPORT?!
LEMME STEP INSIDE AND SEE WHAT IT DOES.

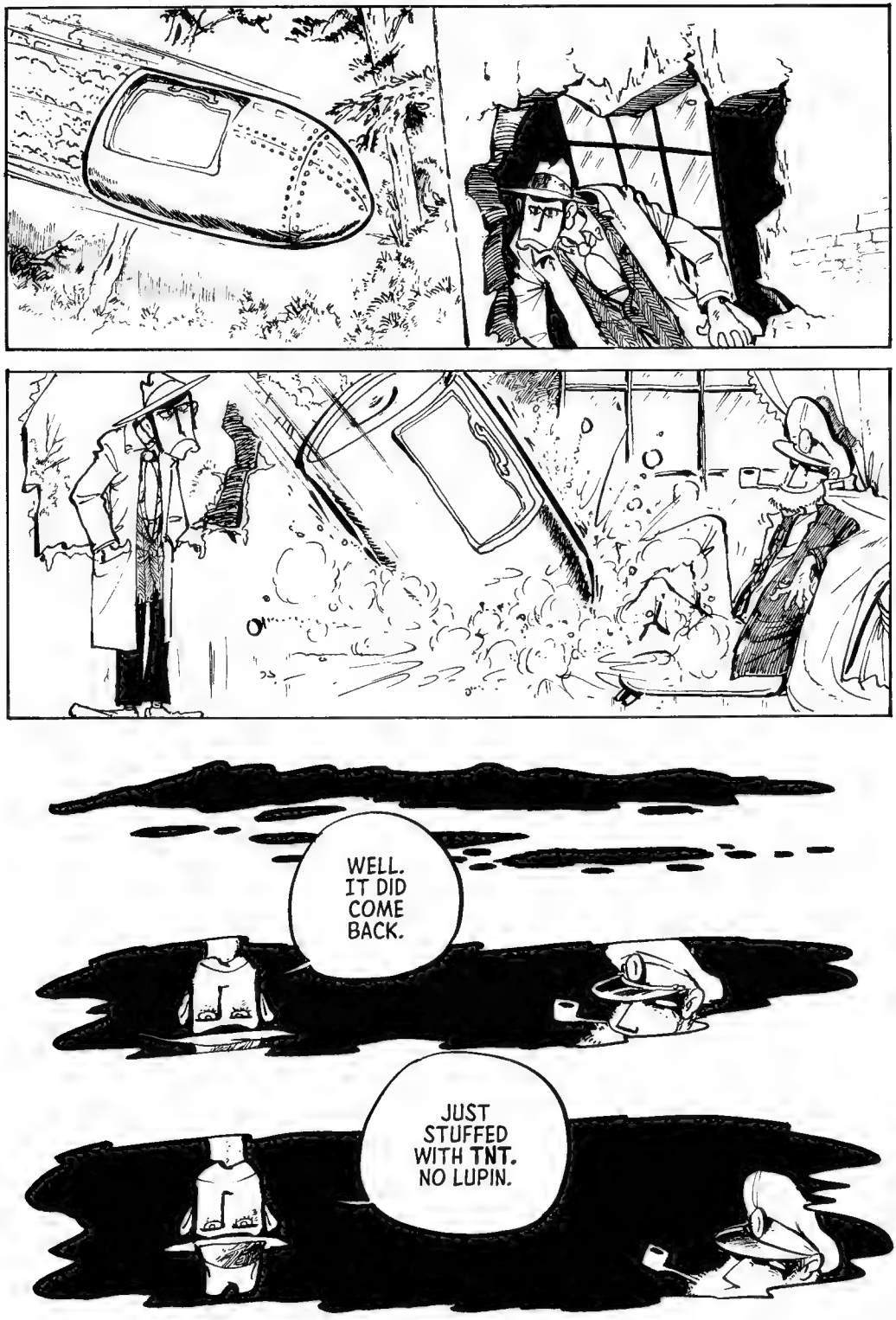
GUOOOON

THEY GOT US!
LUPIN LOST?!
WELCOME BACK, LUPIN.


THIS PRISONER TRANSPORT WILL ALWAYS **RETURN** STRAIGHT TO THIS BASE, NO MATTER WHAT!
WAH HA HA! IT LOOKS LIKE MY DESIGN WORKED EXACTLY AS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO!!

LUPIN. OF ALL THE CROOKS I'VE CHASED...
MY THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS.
THINK NOTHING OF IT, INSPECTOR ZENIGATA. LUPIN THE THIRD IS ALL YOURS!
YOU ALONE I WANTED TO COLLAR WITH MY OWN HANDS, DAMMIT!!
I'LL FIND SOME WAY OUT OF IT!
ARGH! I BUILT THIS TIN CAN!
DRROOO


HA HA HA! DON'T WORRY, INSPECTOR. THAT PRISONER TRANSPORT WILL COME BACK. IT'S DESIGNED TO DO EXACTLY THAT.

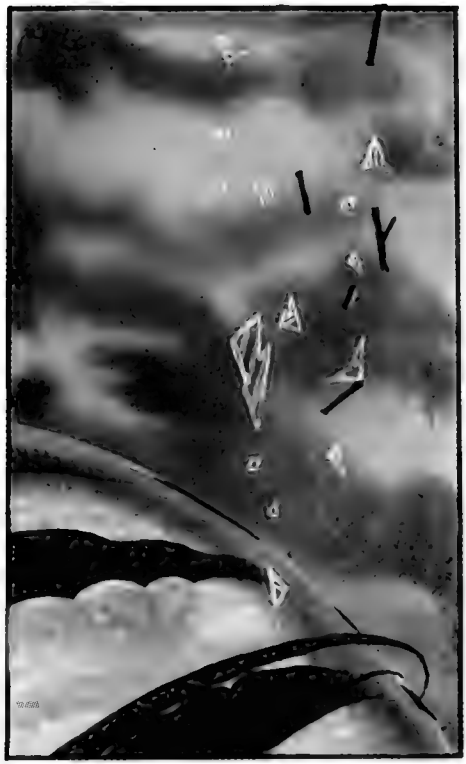

WELL. IT DID COME BACK.
JUST STUFFED WITH TNT. NO LUPIN.

Prisoner Transport / END

I RECEIVED AN INVITATION, JUST LIKE YOU, JIGEN.
EXCUSE ME? WHY SHOULDN'T I BE HERE?

FUJIKO MINE

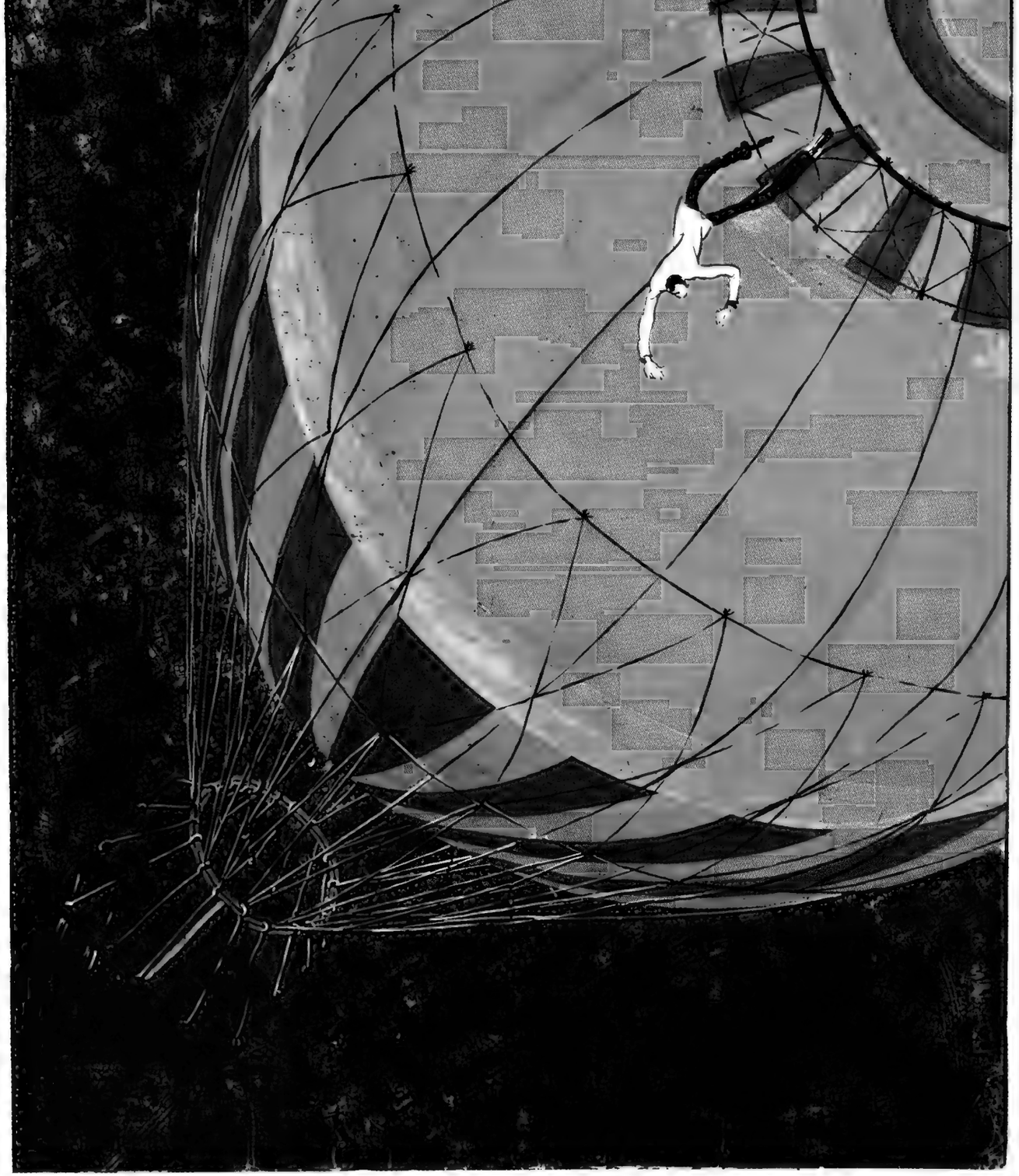
Thieves' War (Part 1)

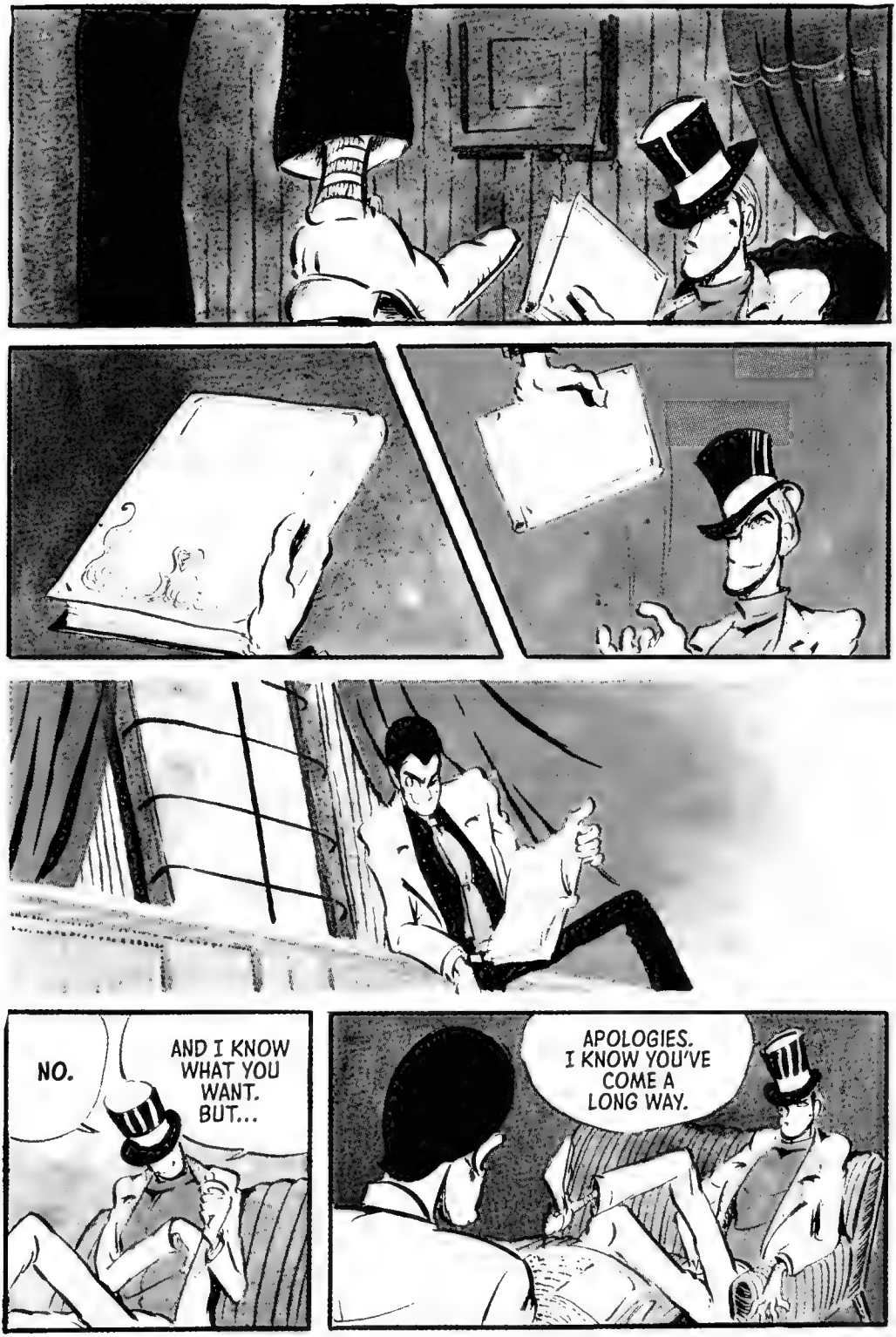


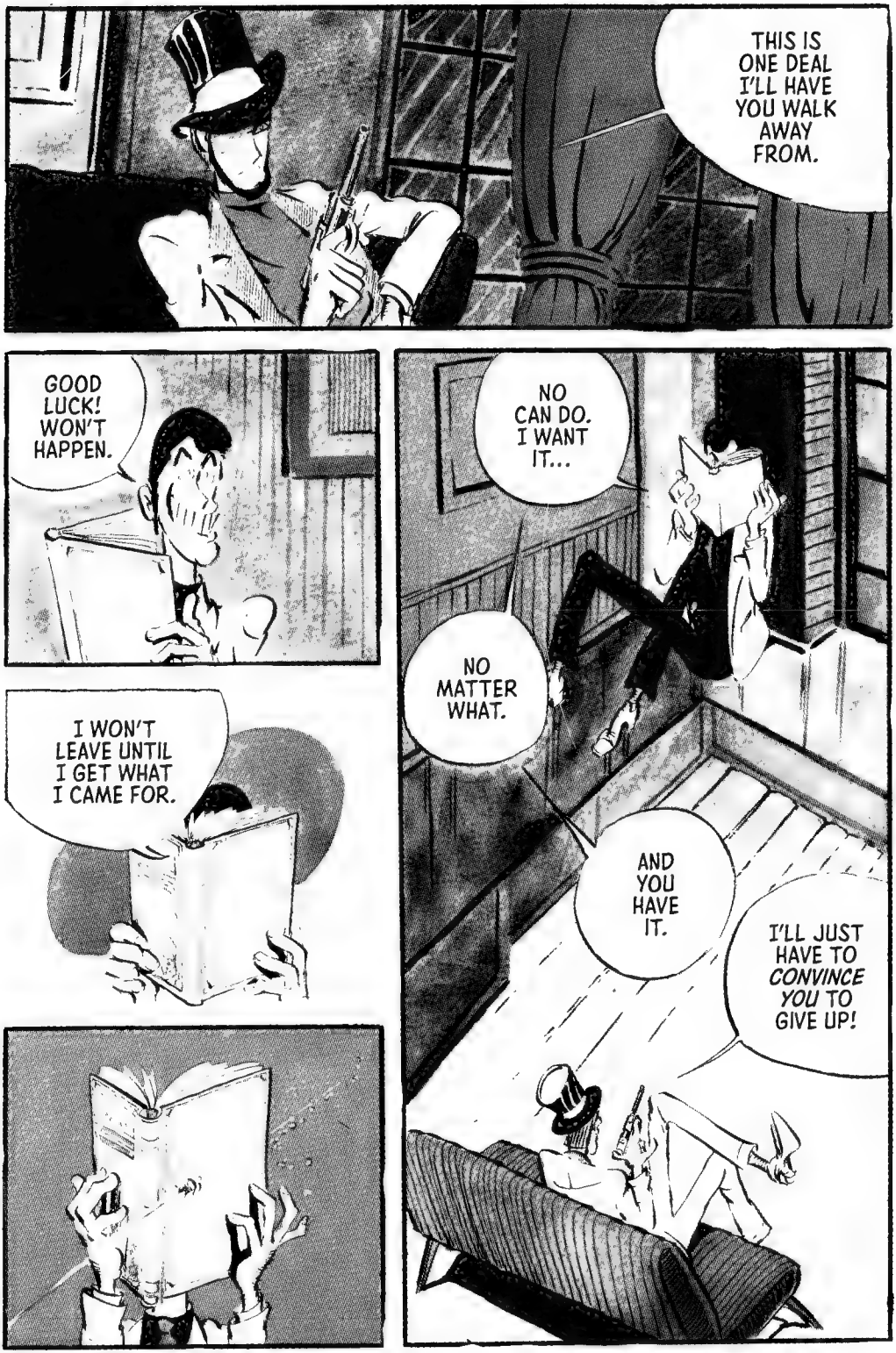
I EXPECT THAT'S LUPIN, THE BURGLAR FELLOW.

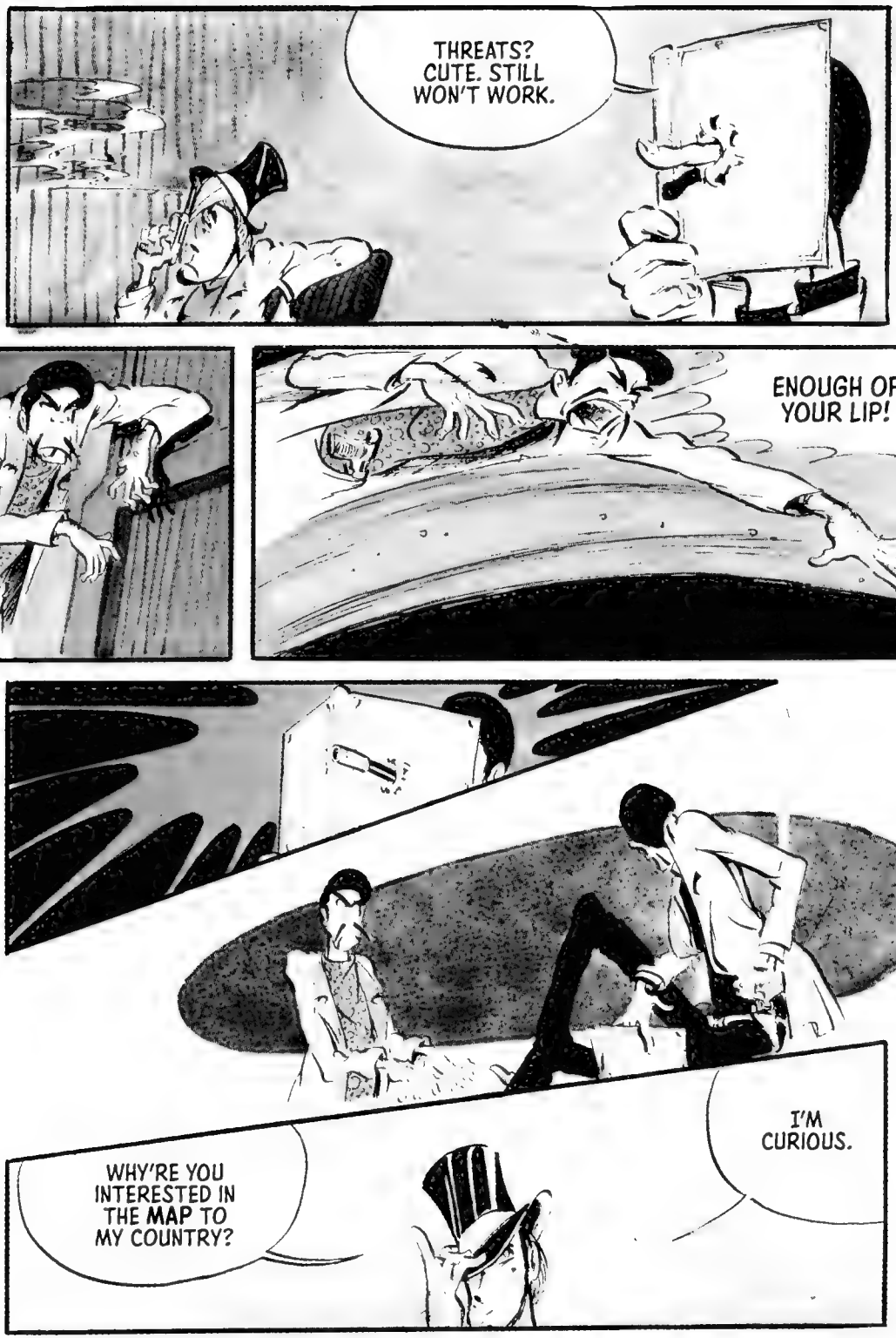
HIM, EH?

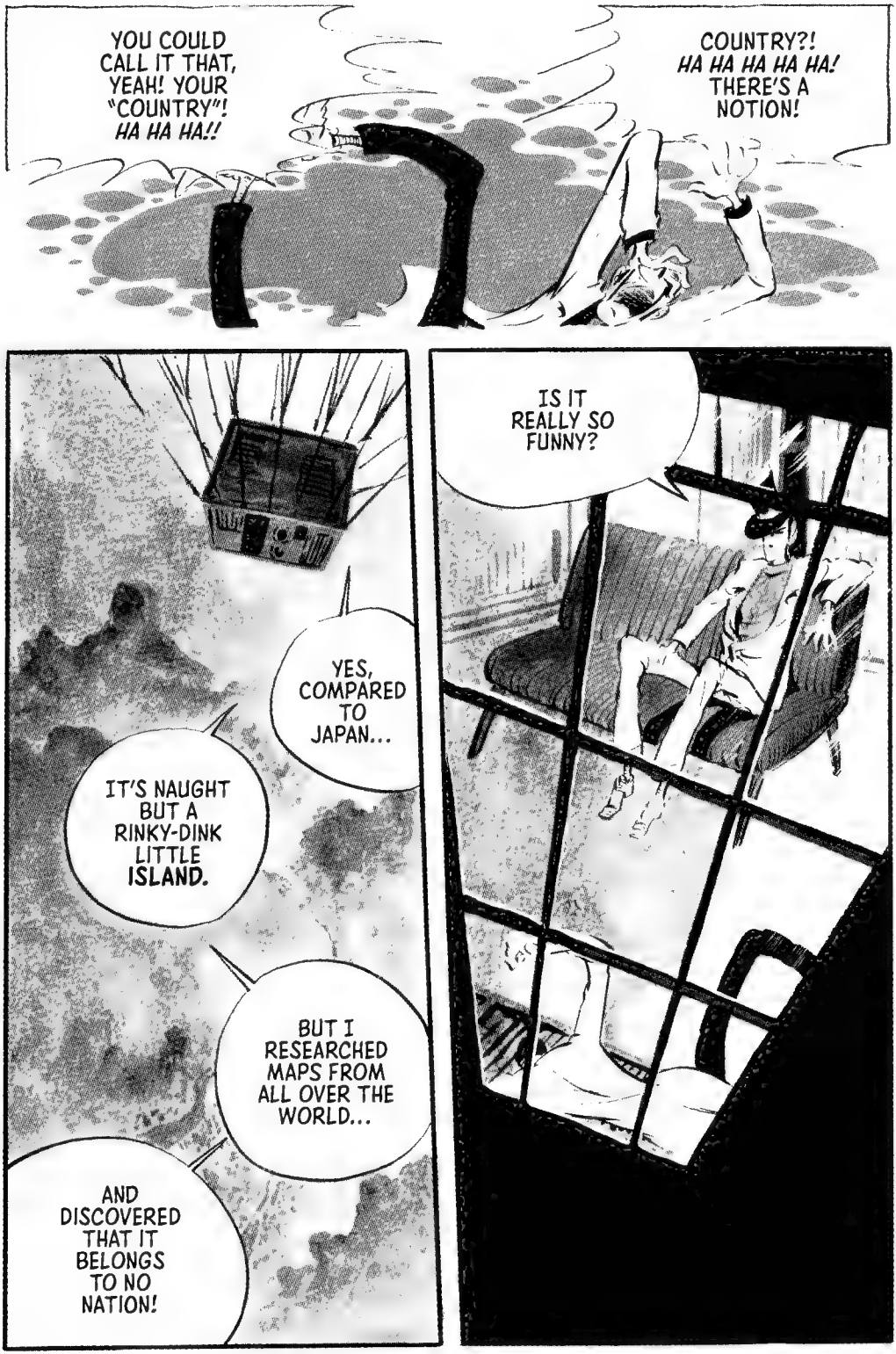
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHY BOTHER CHASING AFTER HIM WHEN HE'LL SURELY COME TO US?




NO.
AND I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. BUT...
APOLOGIES. I KNOW YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY.

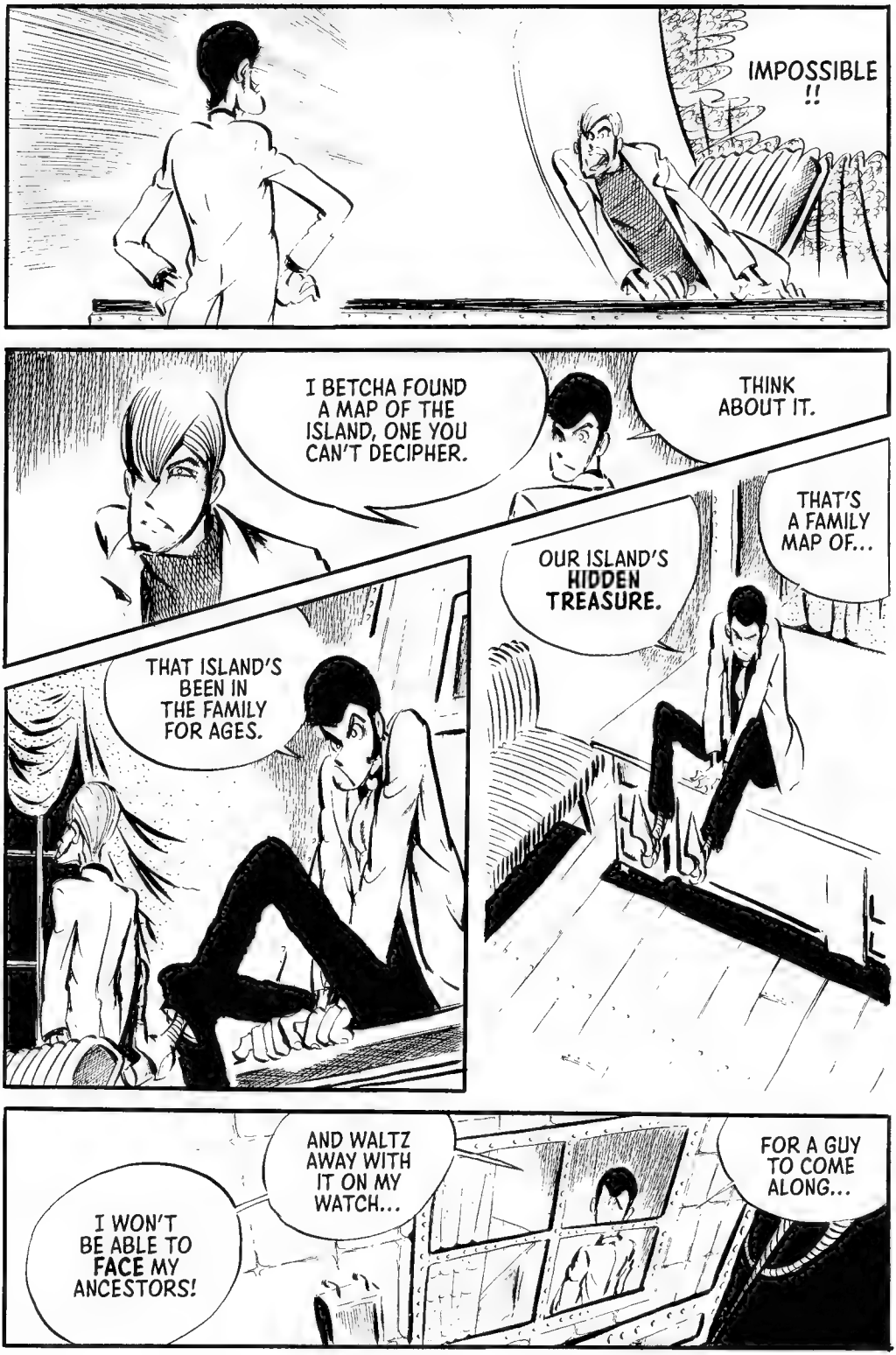

THIS IS ONE DEAL I'LL HAVE YOU WALK AWAY FROM.
GOOD LUCK! WON'T HAPPEN.
I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL I GET WHAT I CAME FOR.
NO CAN DO. I WANT IT...
NO MATTER WHAT.
AND YOU HAVE IT.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO *CONVINCE YOU* TO GIVE UP!

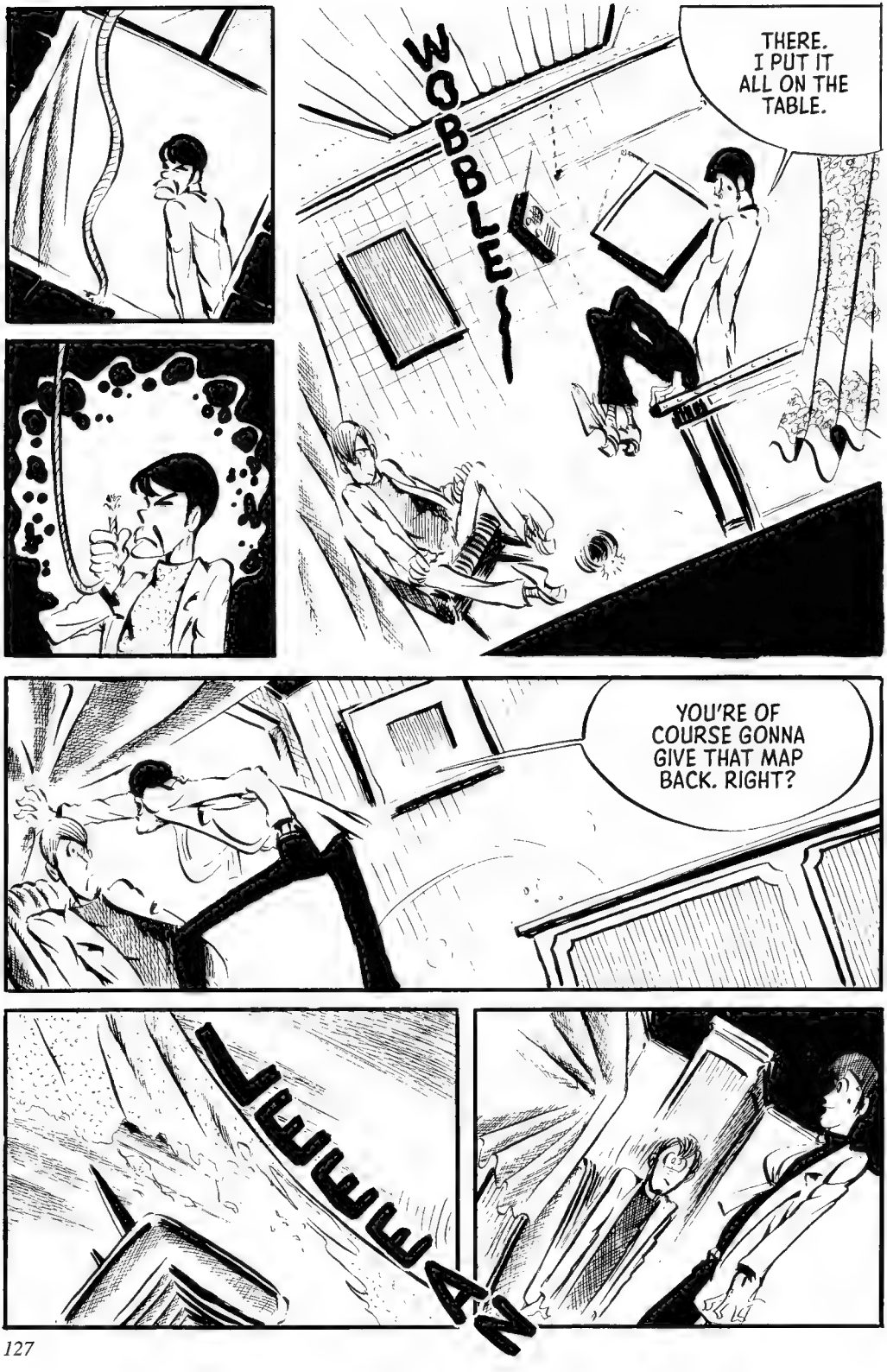

THREATS? CUTE. STILL WON'T WORK.
ENOUGH OF YOUR LIP!
I'M CURIOUS.
WHY'RE YOU INTERESTED IN THE MAP TO MY COUNTRY?


YOU COULD CALL IT THAT, YEAH! YOUR "COUNTRY"! HA HA HA!!
COUNTRY?! HA HA HA HA HA! THERE'S A NOTION!
YES, COMPARED TO JAPAN...
IT'S NAUGHT BUT A RINKY-DINK LITTLE ISLAND.
BUT I RESEARCHED MAPS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...
AND DISCOVERED THAT IT BELONGS TO NO NATION!
IS IT REALLY SO FUNNY?

I MADE IT MY NATION, AND I'M ITS FIRST PRESIDENT.
THE UNITED NATIONS HAS, OF COURSE, OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED IT.
AS NO COUNTRY CLAIMED IT, I SAW NO REASON NOT TO TAKE IT!
SHUT UP!!
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT IT FAR LONGER THAN YOU HAVE, TOO!!
LONG BEFORE YOU EVER FOUND IT!
THAT ISLAND'S BEEN INDEPENDENT OF ALL COUNTRIES FOR DECADES!
BECAUSE THERE'S NO POINT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU DECLARE IT YOUR COUNTRY, THEN?
IS THAT SO?

THAT ISLAND...
IS THE LUPIN FAMILY ISLAND!


IMPOSSIBLE !!
I BETCHA FOUND A MAP OF THE ISLAND, ONE YOU CAN'T DECIPHER.
THINK ABOUT IT.
THAT'S A FAMILY MAP OF...
OUR ISLAND'S HIDDEN TREASURE.
THAT ISLAND'S BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR AGES.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE MY ANCESTORS!
AND WALTZ AWAY WITH IT ON MY WATCH...
FOR A GUY TO COME ALONG...


WOBBLE!
THERE. I PUT IT ALL ON THE TABLE.
YOU'RE OF COURSE GONNA GIVE THAT MAP BACK. RIGHT?
SWWAN

SORRY.
ER...
IT'S GETTING ROCKY. GO SEE WHAT'S UP.
I HEAR YOUR POINT, LUPIN.
BUT THE MAP--

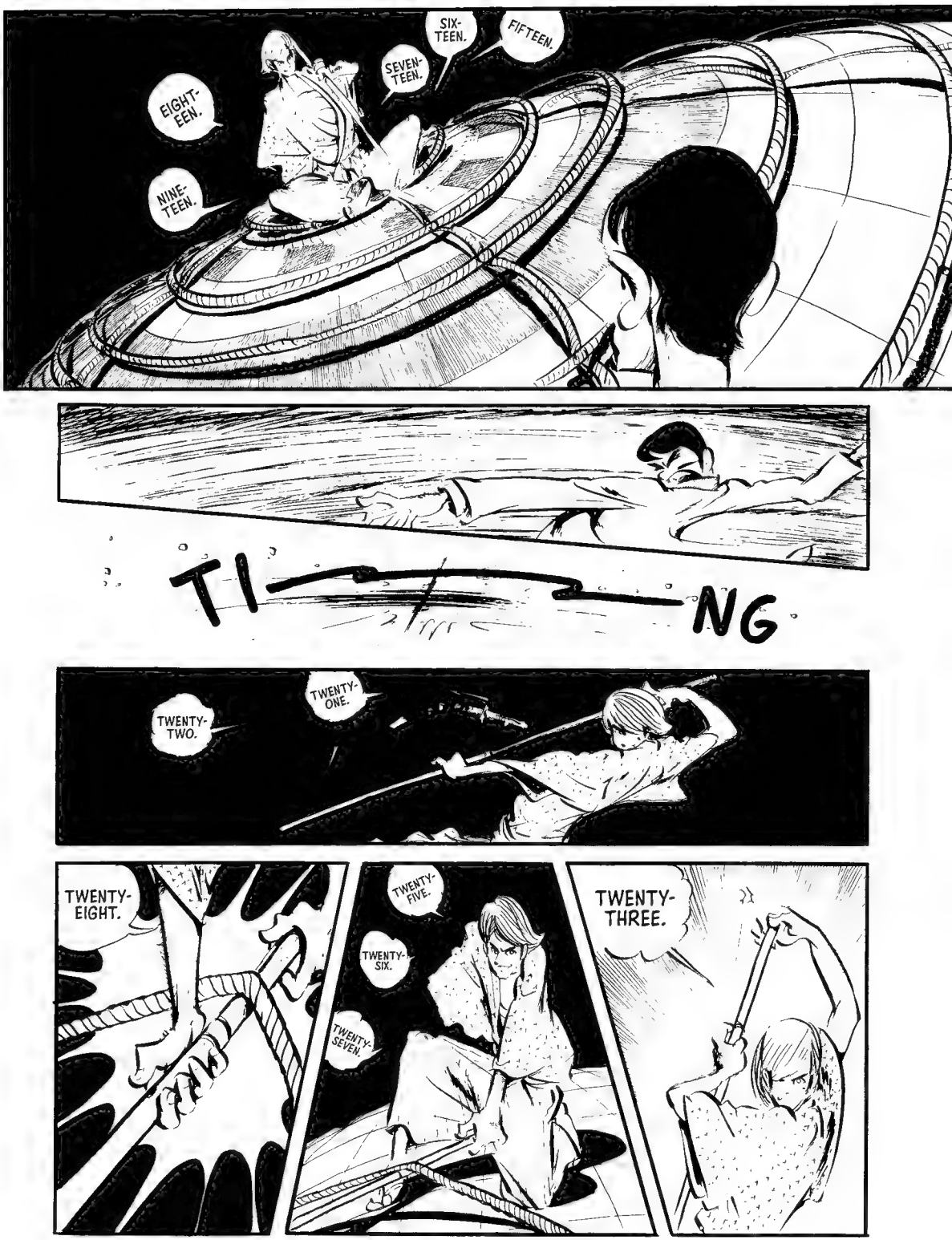
C'MON. DON'T BE A PILL! YOU'RE GIVING IT BACK TO ME. RIGHT?

KRISH
WHERE!
IS!
IT?!
LURCH!

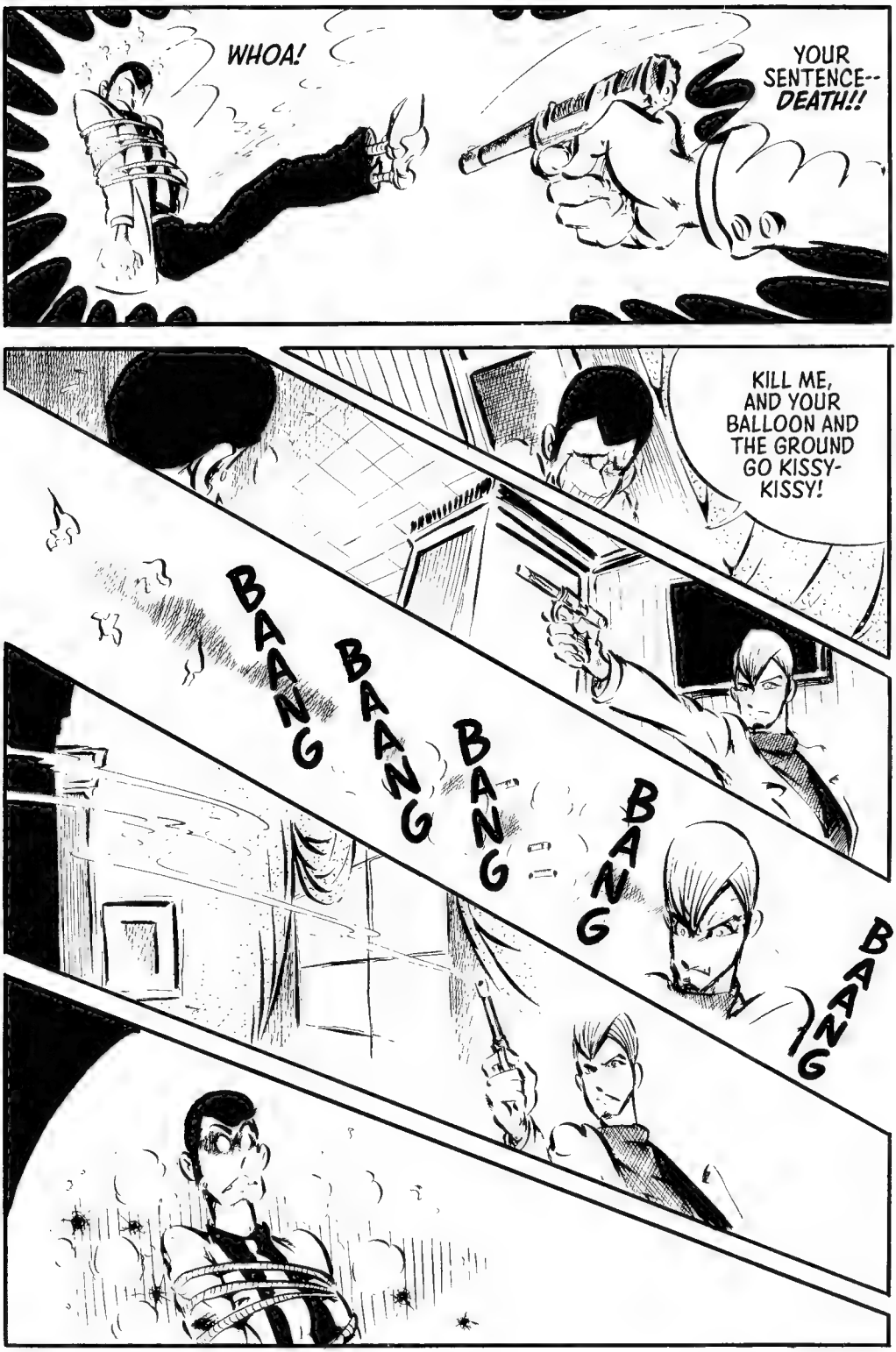
MISS FUJIKO. PLEASE **KNOCK** FIRST.
I SEE YOU'RE HAVING FUN STRINGING HIM ALONG, MR. PRESIDENT.
THERE?
THAT.
IS.
WHO.
LUPIN *ISN'T* YOUR AVERAGE THIEF.
DON'T GO OVERBOARD.
BUT...
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.
I SUPPOSE I'LL SEE HIM ON HIS WAY, THEN.
THOUGH, I HAVEN'T ANY SPARE **PARACHUTES,** I'M AFRAID.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME, DO YOU?!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE EXPRESS ROUTE!
IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT I SAY...
THIS BALLOON'S GONNA DIVE DOWN FOR A SMOOCH WITH THE GROUND!

WHAT, CAN'T YOU PIECE IT TOGETHER FROM ALL THE WOBBLING?!
LURCH
ARE YOU FINALLY TAKING MY "REQUEST" SERIOUSLY, MR. PREZ?!
I CAN'T SAY I APPRECIATE THIS GAME, LUPIN.
WHAT ?!
EVERY THIRTY SECONDS, ONE ROPE HOLDING THIS GONDOLA TO THE BALLOON IS BEING CUT.
WOOBLE

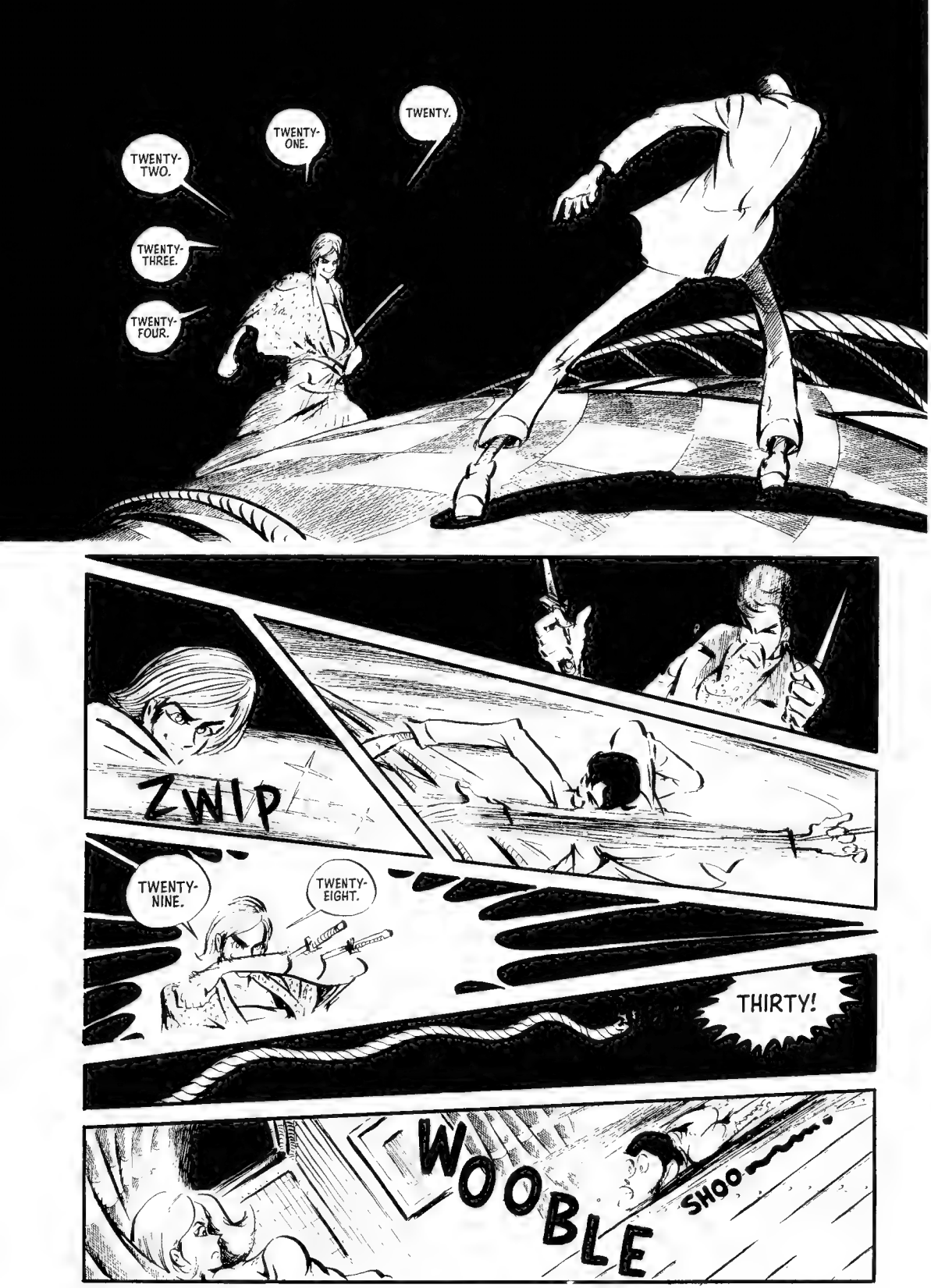

FIFTEEN.
SIX-TEEN.
SEVEN-TEEN.
EIGHT-EEN.
NINE-TEEN.
TI——NG
TWENTY-ONE.
TWENTY-TWO.
TWENTY-THREE.
TWENTY-FOUR.
TWENTY-FIVE.
TWENTY-SIX.
TWENTY-SEVEN.
TWENTY-EIGHT.

TWENTY-NINE.
THIRTY!
A JAPANESE MAN IS THREATENING A FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE.
HOW 'BOUT YOU START BY UNTYING ME?
LEEAN
THIS IS A MISTAKE, YES? AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT, IN FACT.
YOU DO REALIZE...
I DECLARE MY RIGHT TO TRY YOU UNDER MY COUNTRY'S LAW!
I JUDGE YOU GUILTY!
THREATENING THE PRESIDENT. TRESPASSING UPON HIS PERSONAL HOT AIR BALLOON.


WHOA!
YOUR SENTENCE-- DEATH!!
KILL ME, AND YOUR BALLOON AND THE GROUND GO KISSY-KISSY!
BAANG
BAANG
BANG
BANG
BAANG

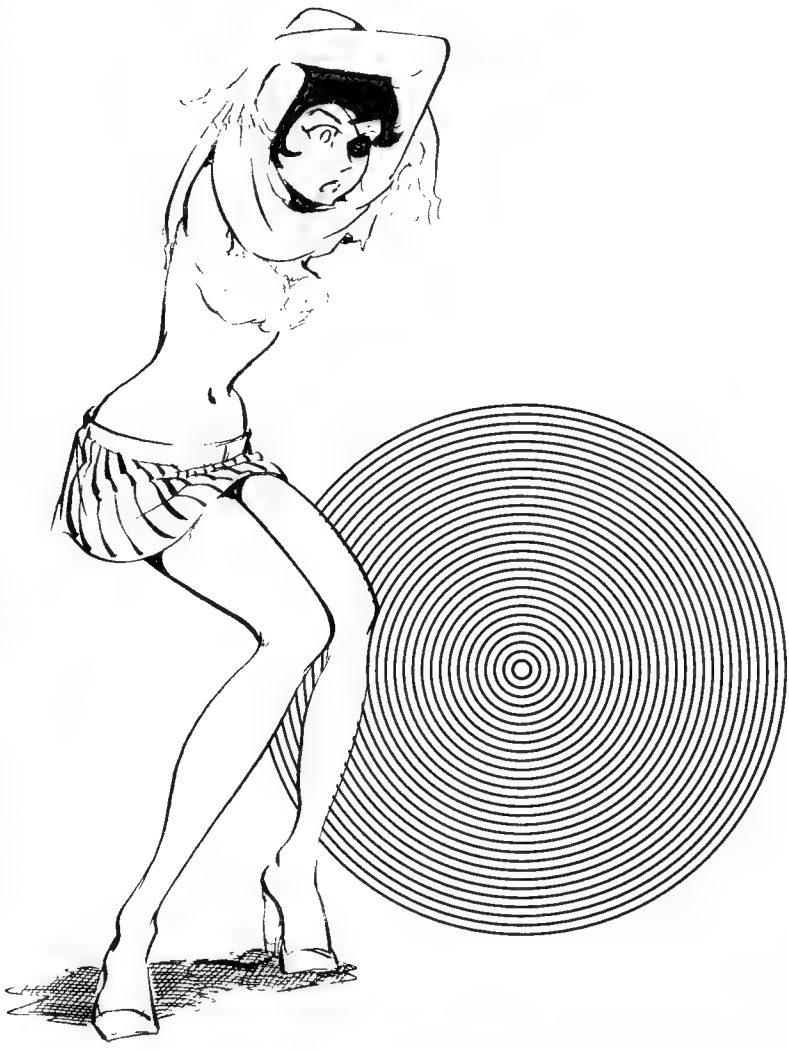
MISS FUJIKO.
BRING THE MAP I ENTRUSTED TO YOUR SAFEKEEPING.
NO! I RE-FUSE!
I WON'T LET A MERE THIEF THREATEN THE ISLAND'S PEACE!
YOU'RE MY SECRETARY! DO AS I SAY!!
KRUNK

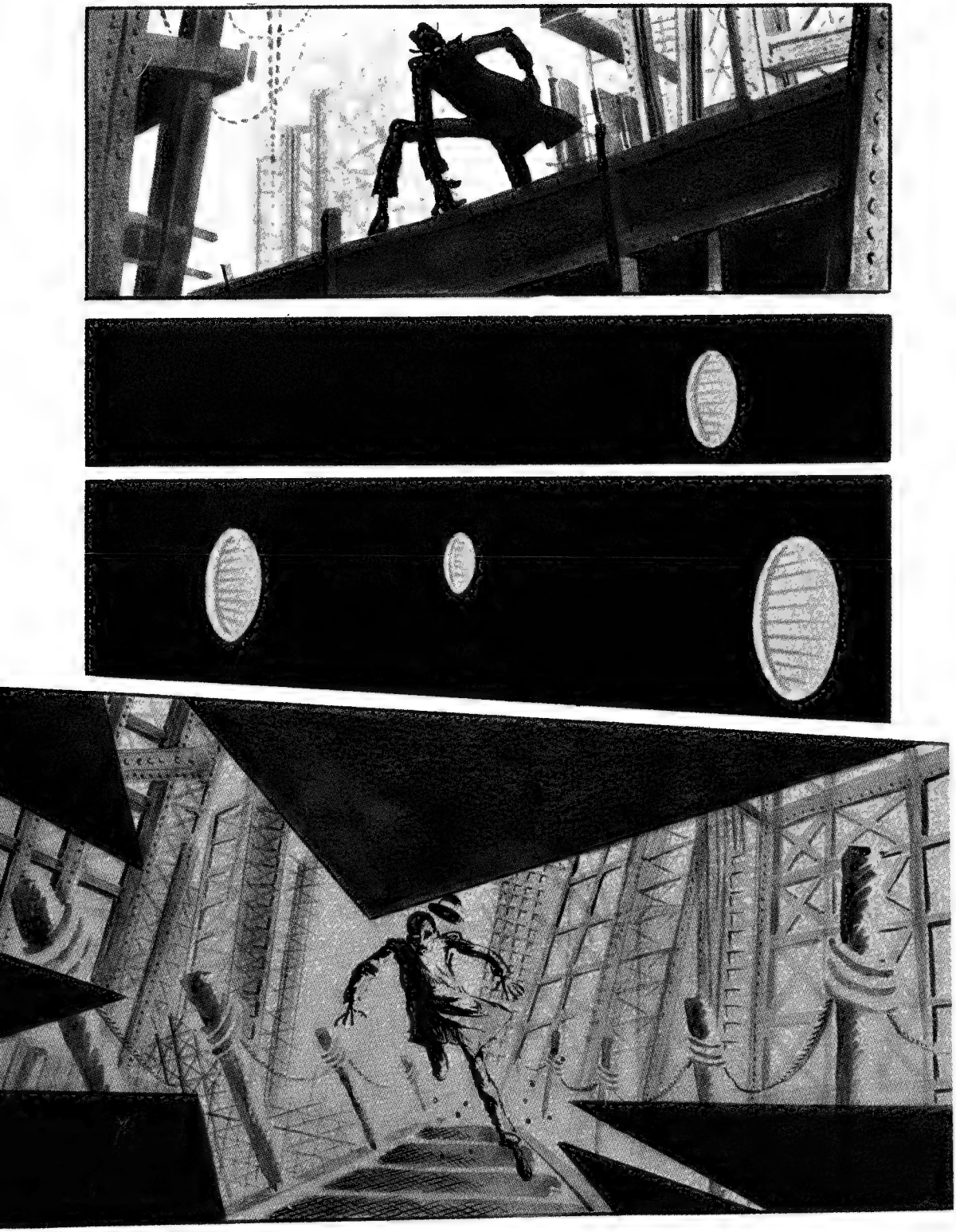
THERE! YOUR MAP!
TH-WUMP
NINE-TEEN.
EIGH-TEEN.
SEVEN-TEEN.
SIXTEEN.


TWENTY.
TWENTY-ONE.
TWENTY-TWO.
TWENTY-THREE.
TWENTY-FOUR.
ZWIP
TWENTY-NINE.
TWENTY-EIGHT.
THIRTY!
WOOBLE
SHOO

Thieves' War (Part 1) / END

Thieves' War (Part 2)



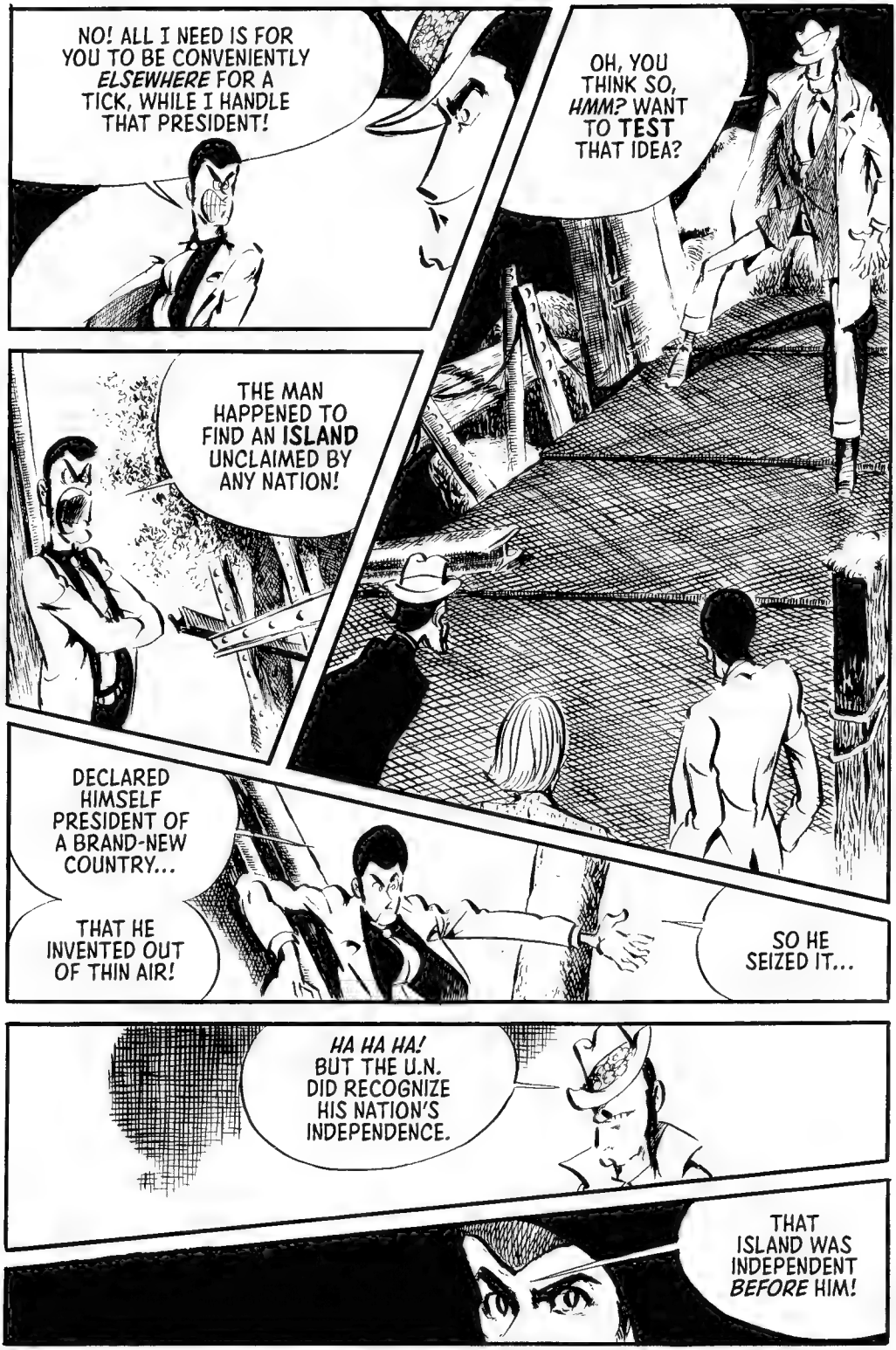


KLIK
YOU ARE A RAT IN OUR TRAP.
YOU WON'T GET AWAY, INSPECTOR ZENIGATA.

YOU FAKED A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF TO LURE ME HERE!
YEAH. IT'S A DIRTY TRICK. I AGREE.
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY!
I'LL ADMIT YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN GOOD AT CHASING. BUT RUNNING?
HOO! YOU STINK AT THAT SOMETHING FIERCE!

THE MAN YOU'RE GUARDING.
THAT PRESIDENT.
FOR ONE...
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?!
NOT THERE.
I WANT HIM TO BE THERE AND YOU, WELL...
AND TWO...
I WANT TO GET CLOSE TO SAID PRESIDENT.
TO DO THAT, I'LL BE YOU.

NOT HAPPENING!
BUT ALL THREE OF US ARE JUST AS GOOD. IF NOT BETTER.
YOU'RE GOOD, YEAH.
NO CRAZY IDEAS, OKAY?


NO! ALL I NEED IS FOR YOU TO BE CONVENIENTLY *ELSEWHERE* FOR A TICK, WHILE I HANDLE THAT PRESIDENT!
OH, YOU THINK SO, *HMM?* WANT TO **TEST** THAT IDEA?
THE MAN HAPPENED TO FIND AN **ISLAND** UNCLAIMED BY ANY NATION!
DECLARED HIMSELF PRESIDENT OF A BRAND-NEW COUNTRY...
THAT HE INVENTED OUT OF THIN AIR!
SO HE SEIZED IT...
HA HA HA! BUT THE U.N. DID RECOGNIZE HIS NATION'S INDEPENDENCE.
THAT ISLAND WAS INDEPENDENT *BEFORE* HIM!

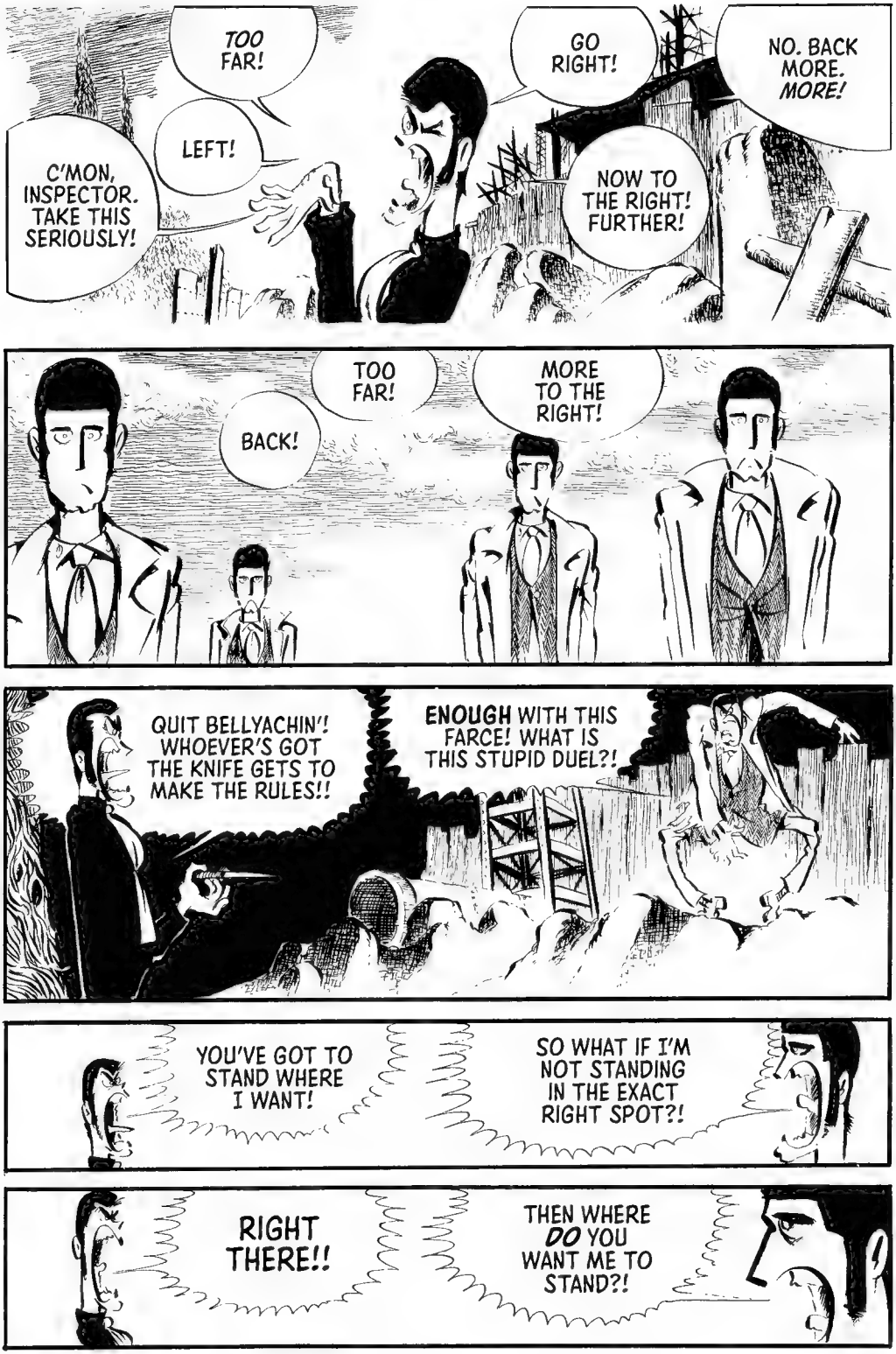
IT WAS THE SEAT OF
THE LUPIN EMPIRE!
OH, I GETCHA.
OH? WHAT IS IT?
NO NEED TO RUN HIM OUT!
AND I HAVE A GREAT SUGGESTION TO HELP SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM.
LET ME DUMP YOU IN THE SLAMMER! PERMANENTLY!
SO I'D LIKE THAT USURPER TO TAKE HIMSELF ELSEWHERE. PERMANENTLY.
CATCH MY DRIFT?
TAKE HIM ALIVE!!

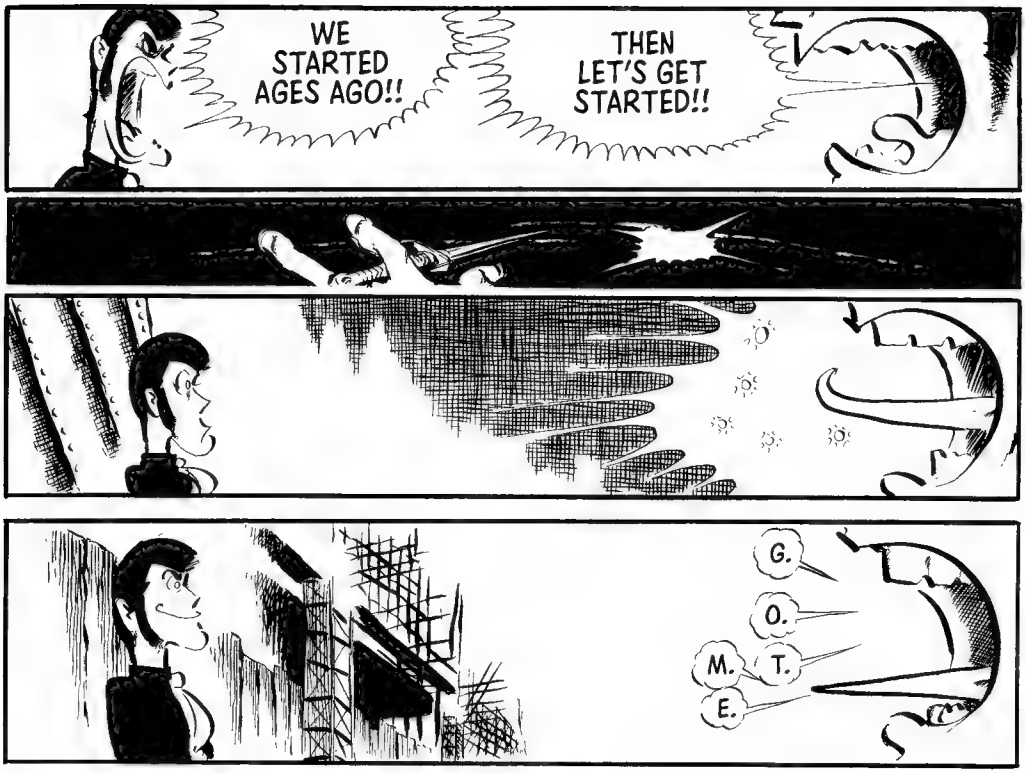
YOU'RE GOOD, INSPEC-TOR... REAL GOOD!
HERE I COME !!

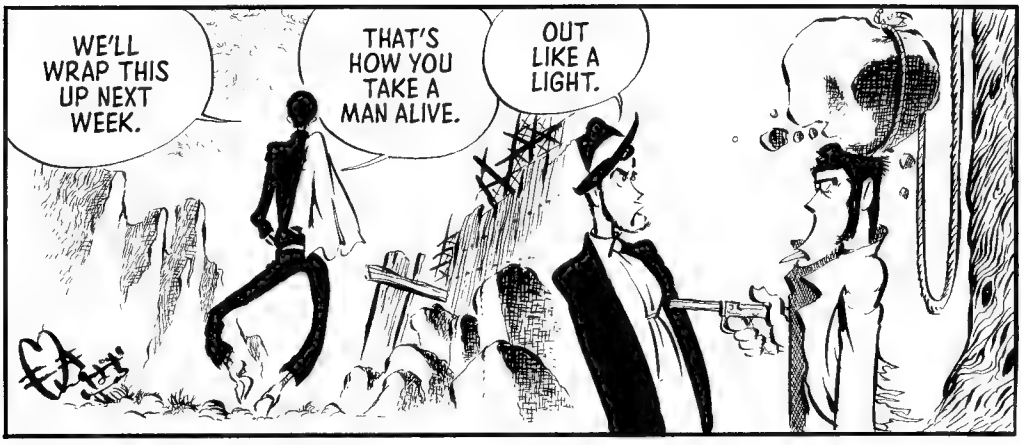
AND THAT, LUPIN...
IS HOW YOU CATCH A MAN!

YOU LOSERS ARE ALL BARK AND NO BITE!
DANGLING THERE LIKE WIND CHIMES! SHEESH!
LET'S MAKE THIS FORMAL!
YOUR TURN?
AN OFFICIAL DUEL!
KNIFE VERSUS HEATER!
LET'S FOLLOW THE OLD TRADITIONS.
THE ONE WITH THE KNIFE CHOOSES TIME AND PLACE.

HERE AND NOW IS FINE, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, SCOOT LEFT A BIT.
TOO FAR. MORE RIGHT.
BACK.
NO KILLING! THAT'S A CRITICAL POINT.
TAKE THE OTHER GUY ALIVE TO WIN.
AWFUL PEACEFUL DUEL, THIS.


C'MON, INSPECTOR. TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!
TOO FAR!
LEFT!
GO RIGHT!
NOW TO THE RIGHT! FURTHER!
NO. BACK MORE. MORE!
TOO FAR!
BACK!
MORE TO THE RIGHT!
QUIT BELLYACHIN'! WHOEVER'S GOT THE KNIFE GETS TO MAKE THE RULES!!
ENOUGH WITH THIS FARCE! WHAT IS THIS STUPID DUEL?!
YOU'VE GOT TO STAND WHERE I WANT!
SO WHAT IF I'M NOT STANDING IN THE EXACT RIGHT SPOT?!
RIGHT THERE!!
THEN WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO STAND?!





Thieves' War (Part 2) / END

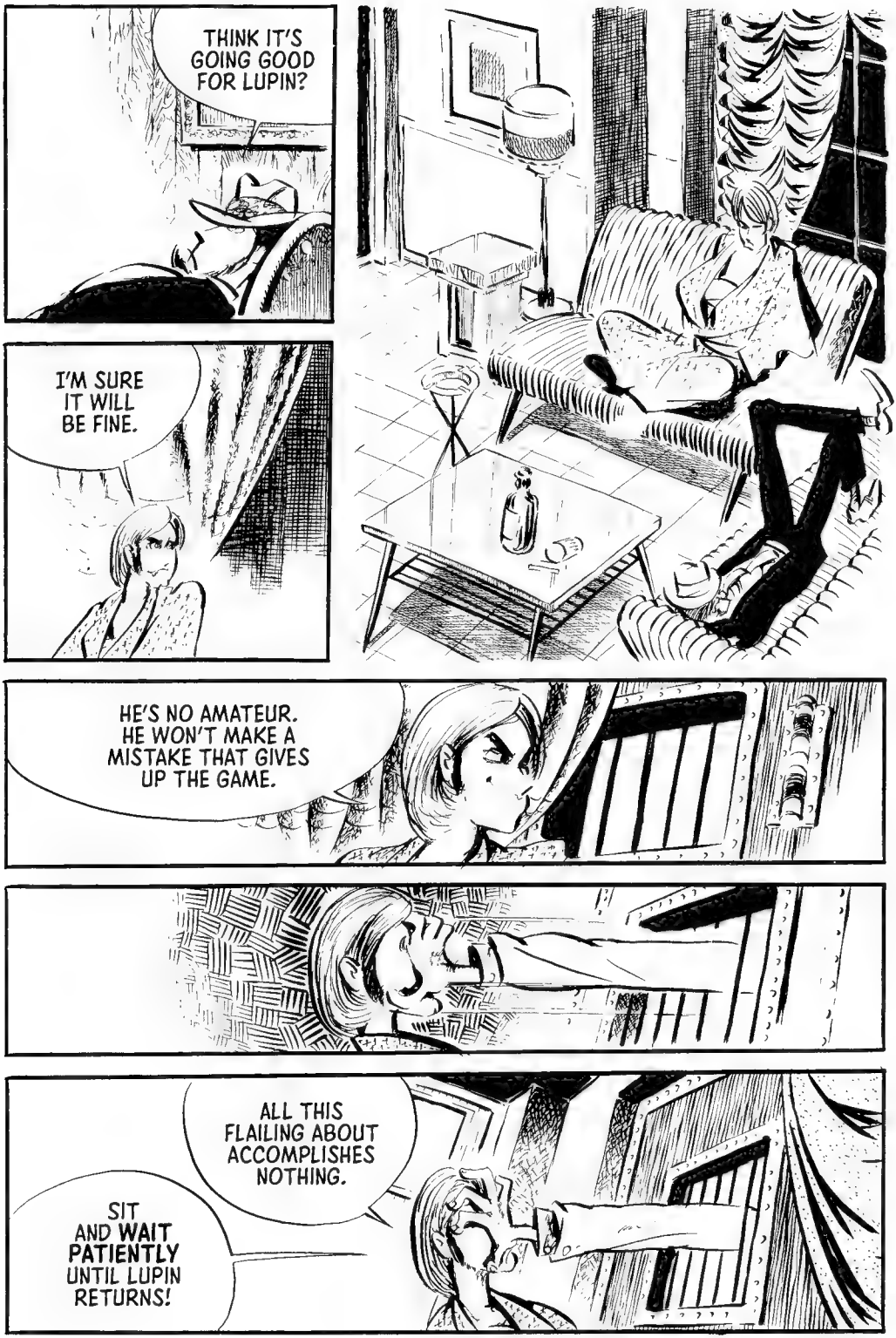
INSPECTOR ZENIGATA

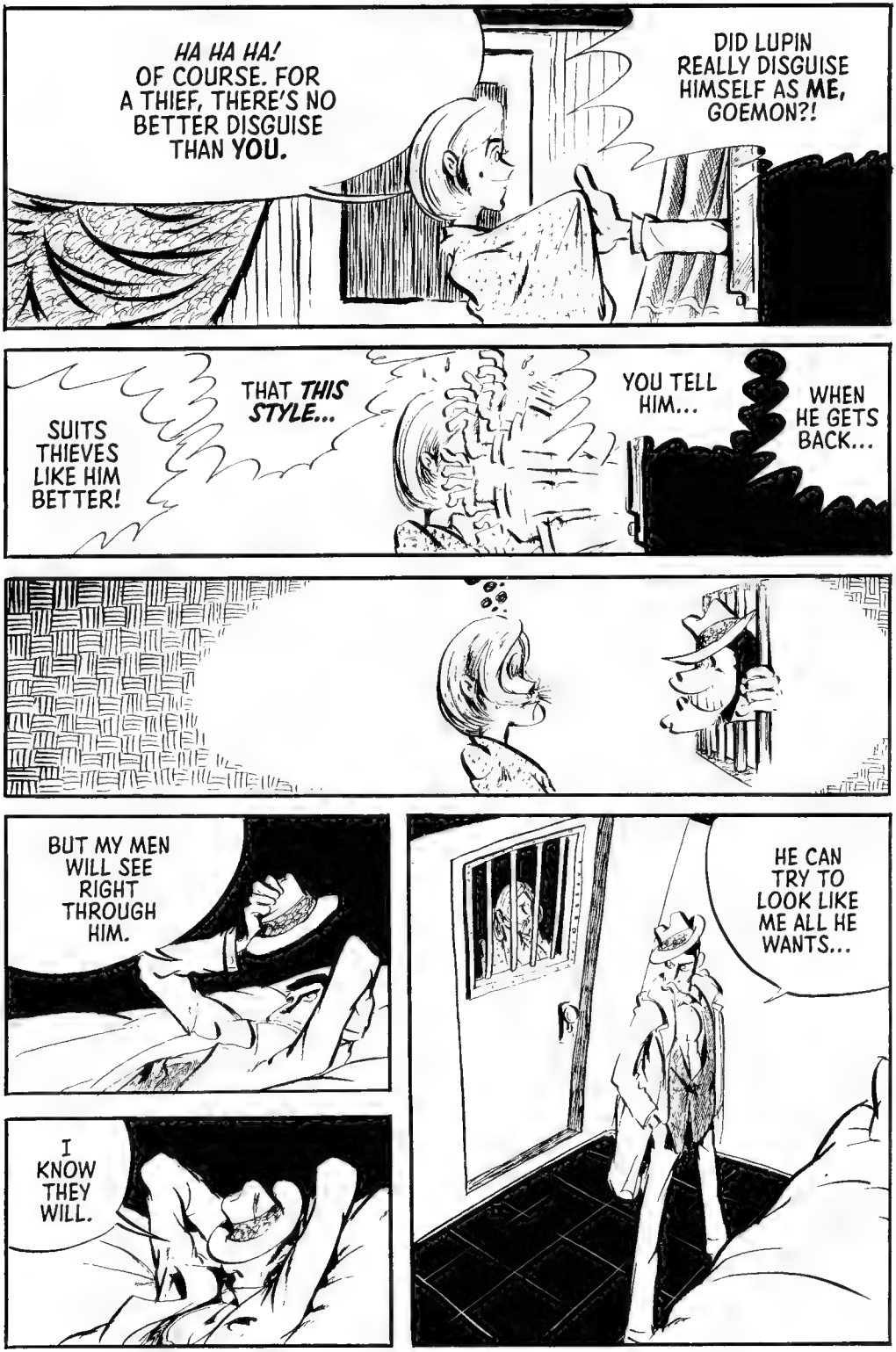
Thieves' War (Part 3)

IT'S ZENIGATA!

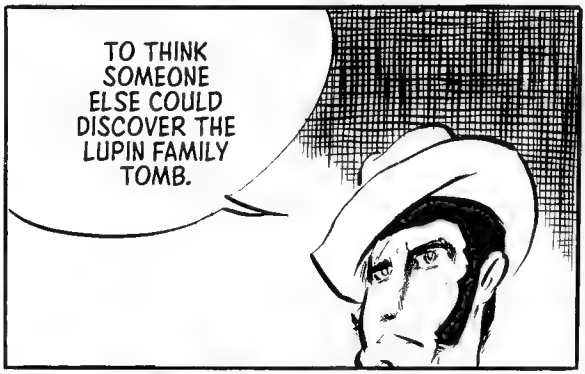
KLONK
ACCEPTED.
MY CONDITIONS...?
USE IT WELL AND THIS INFO COULD **RUIN** LUPIN THE THIRD COMPLETELY. THAT MUCH I KNOW FOR CERTAIN.
THE INTEL?
WHERE IS IT?! WILL YOU TELL ME OR NOT?!
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT!
LOOK AT THE **PHOTO** INSIDE THIS CASE!

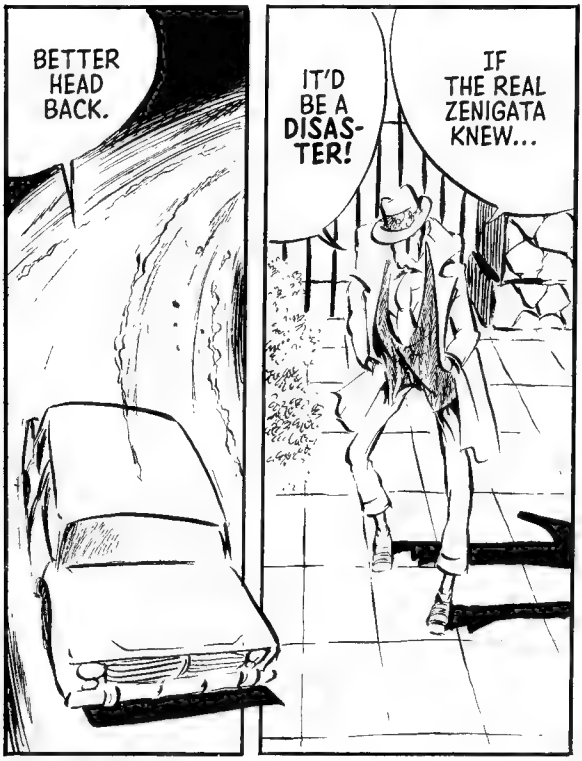
THE LUPIN FAMILY TOMB!
THAT IS A GRAVE NO ONE HAS YET FOUND...
OVER 700 BILLION YEN WORTH OF TREASURE LIES INSIDE IT.
HERE. A MAP TO IT.

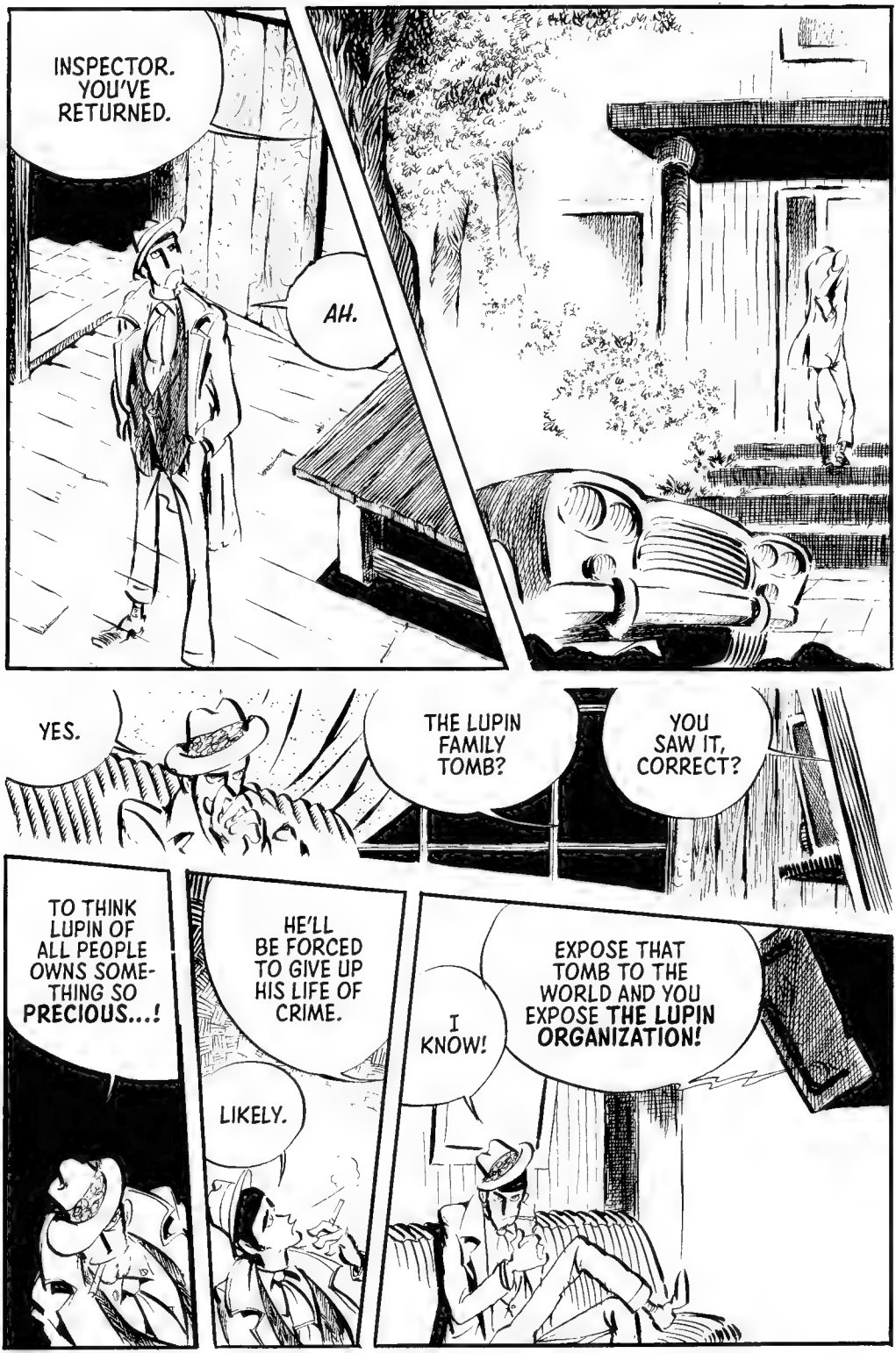

THINK IT'S GOING GOOD FOR LUPIN?
I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE.
HE'S NO AMATEUR. HE WON'T MAKE A MISTAKE THAT GIVES UP THE GAME.
ALL THIS FLAILING ABOUT ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING.
SIT AND WAIT PATIENTLY UNTIL LUPIN RETURNS!

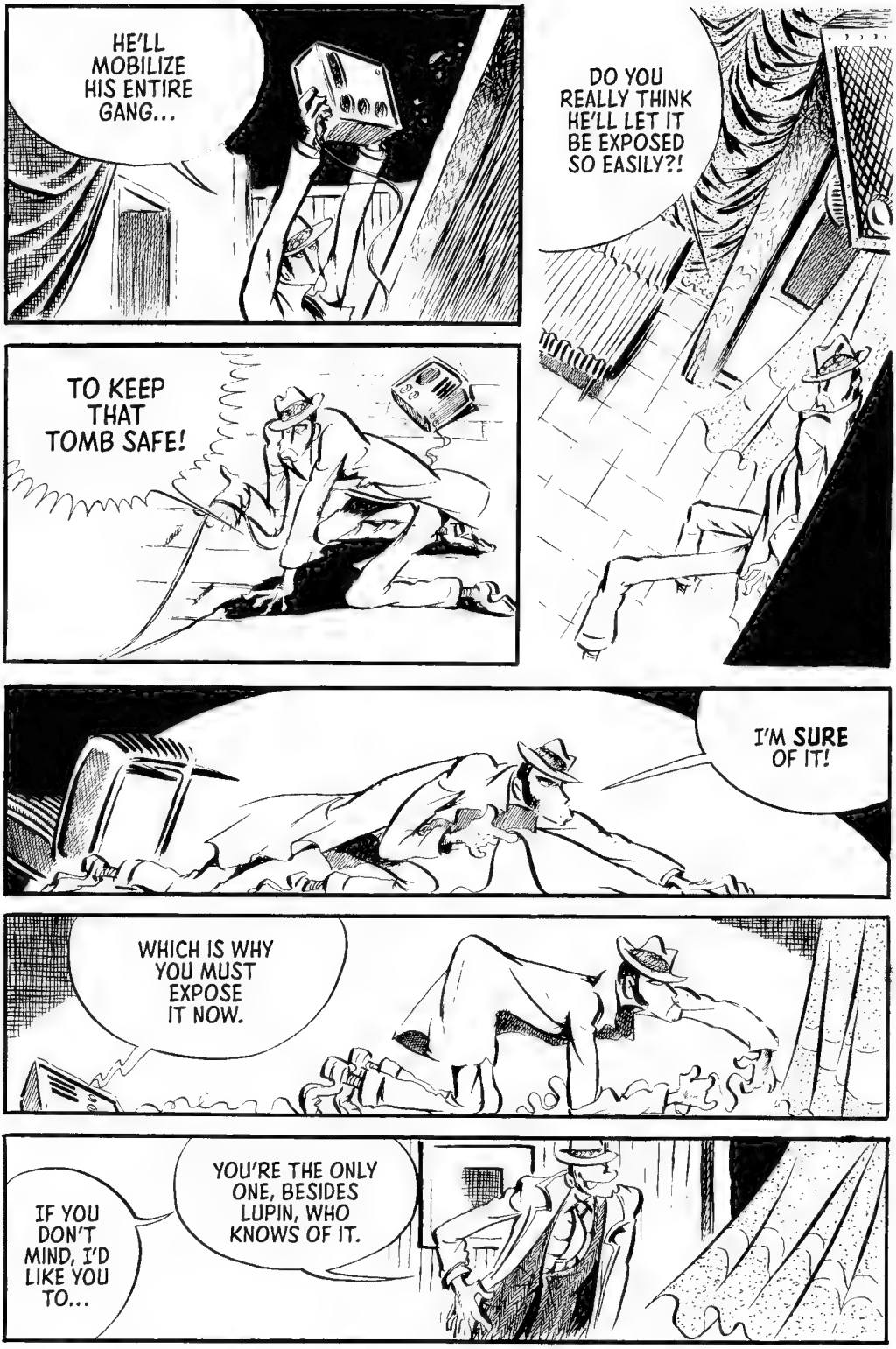

HA HA HA! OF COURSE. FOR A THIEF, THERE'S NO BETTER DISGUISE THAN YOU.
DID LUPIN REALLY DISGUISE HIMSELF AS ME, GOEMON?!
SUITS THIEVES LIKE HIM BETTER!
THAT THIS STYLE...
YOU TELL HIM...
WHEN HE GETS BACK...
BUT MY MEN WILL SEE RIGHT THROUGH HIM.
I KNOW THEY WILL.
HE CAN TRY TO LOOK LIKE ME ALL HE WANTS...

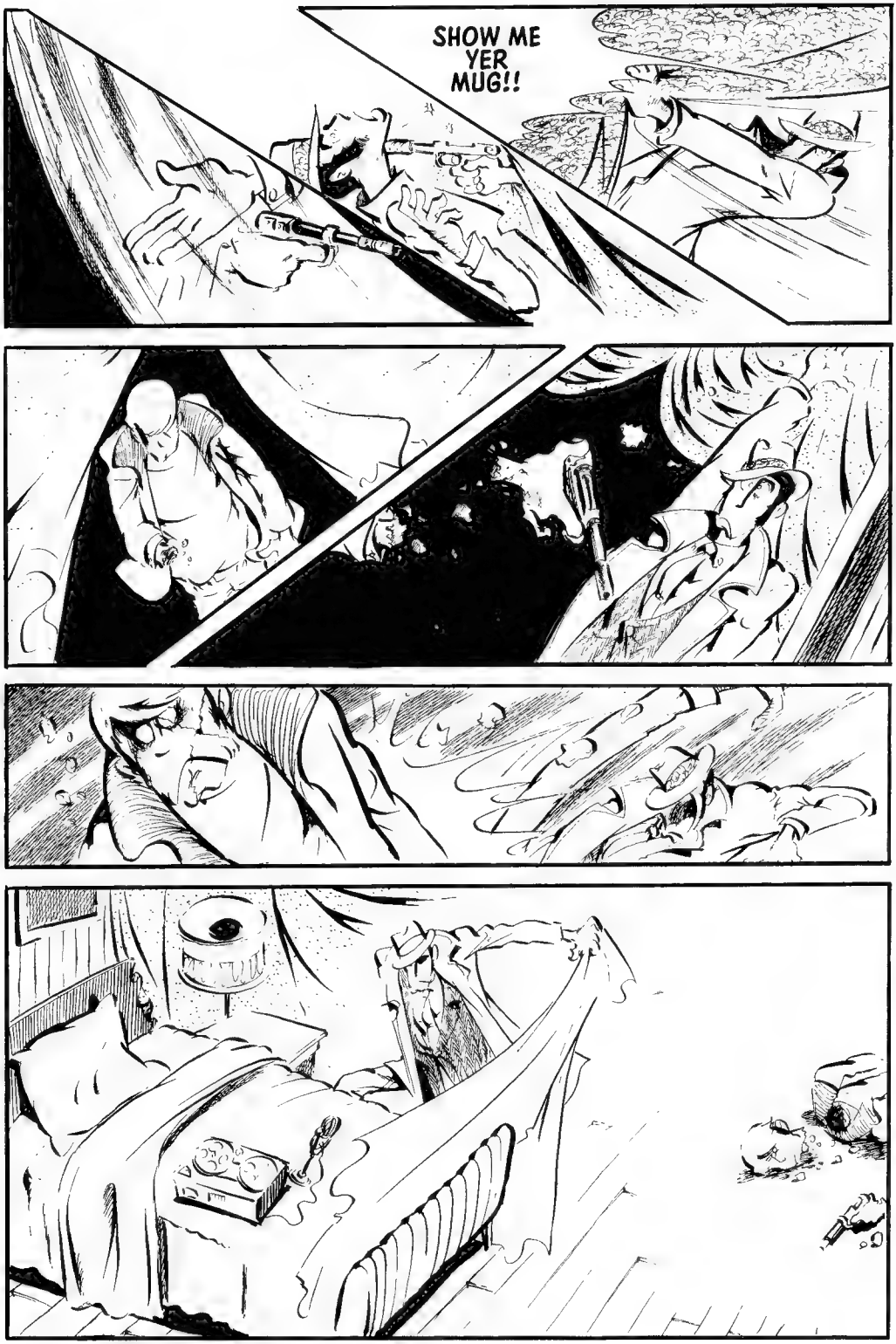
THIS IS BAD.


TO THINK SOMEONE ELSE COULD DISCOVER THE LUPIN FAMILY TOMB.

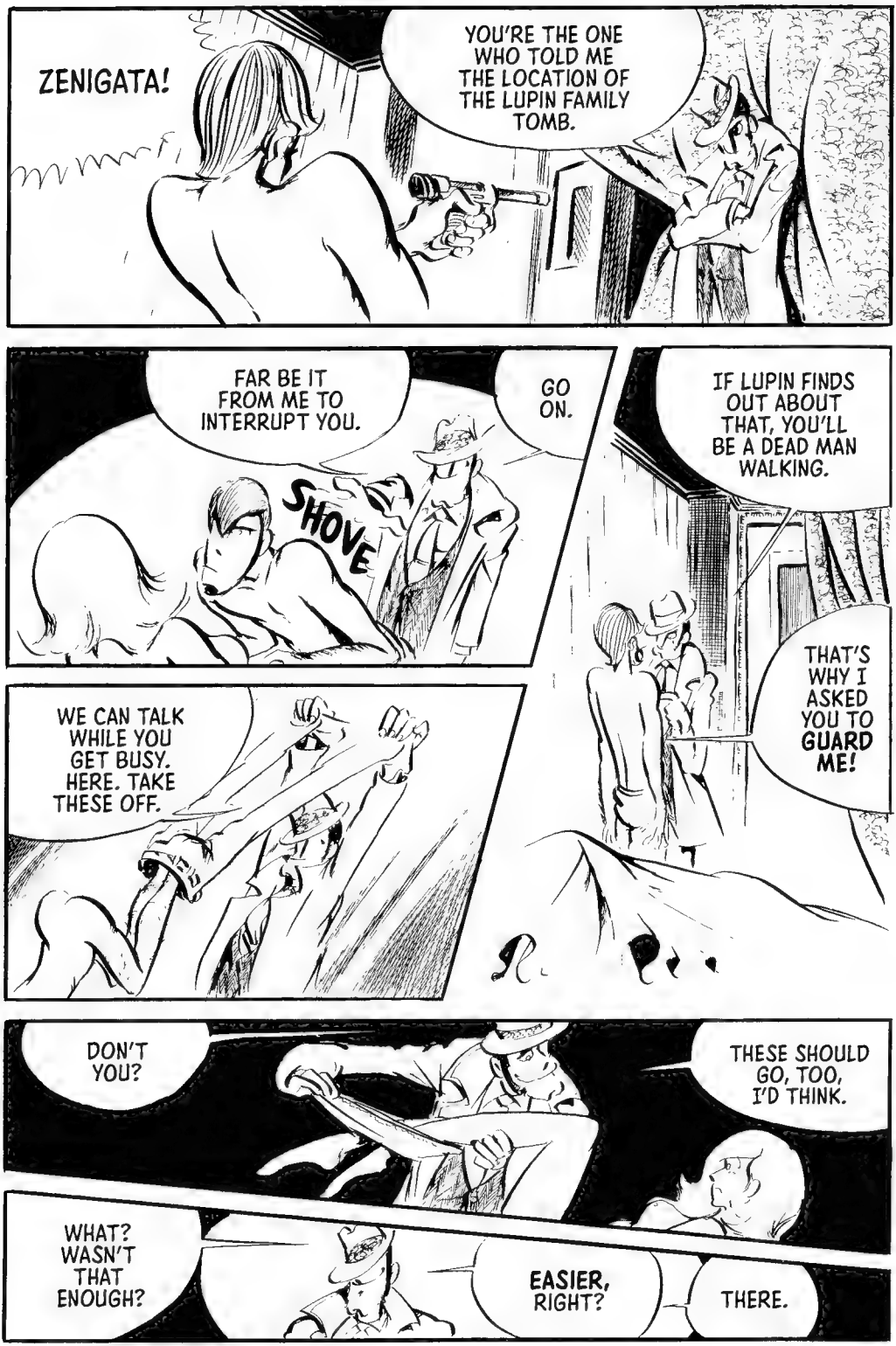

BETTER HEAD BACK.
IT'D BE A DISAS-TER!
IF THE REAL ZENIGATA KNEW...

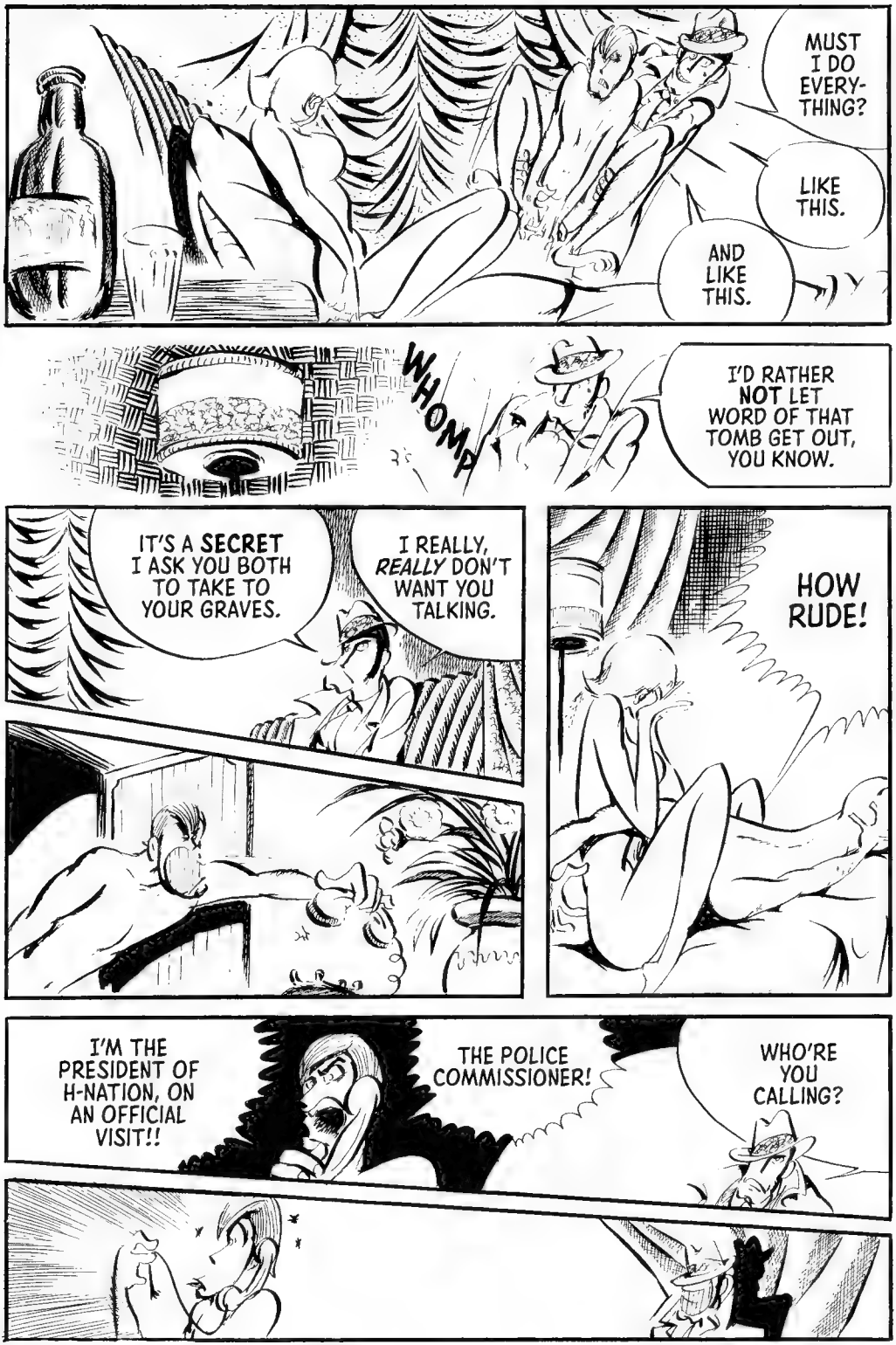

INSPECTOR. YOU'VE RETURNED.
AH.
YES.
THE LUPIN FAMILY TOMB?
YOU SAW IT, CORRECT?
TO THINK LUPIN OF ALL PEOPLE OWNS SOMETHING SO **PRECIOUS...!**
HE'LL BE FORCED TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE OF CRIME.
LIKELY.
I KNOW!
EXPOSE THAT TOMB TO THE WORLD AND YOU EXPOSE **THE LUPIN ORGANIZATION!**


HE'LL MOBILIZE HIS ENTIRE GANG...
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL LET IT BE EXPOSED SO EASILY?!
TO KEEP THAT TOMB SAFE!
I'M SURE OF IT!
WHICH IS WHY YOU MUST EXPOSE IT NOW.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE, BESIDES LUPIN, WHO KNOWS OF IT.


SHOW ME
YER
MUG!!

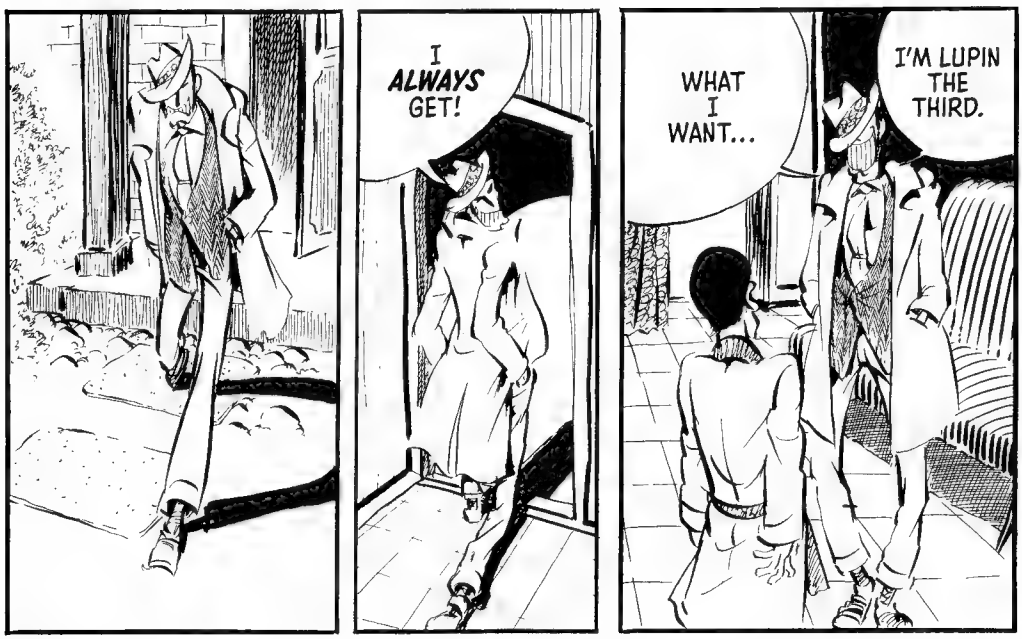
CHEEKY!
MR. PRESIDENT~!

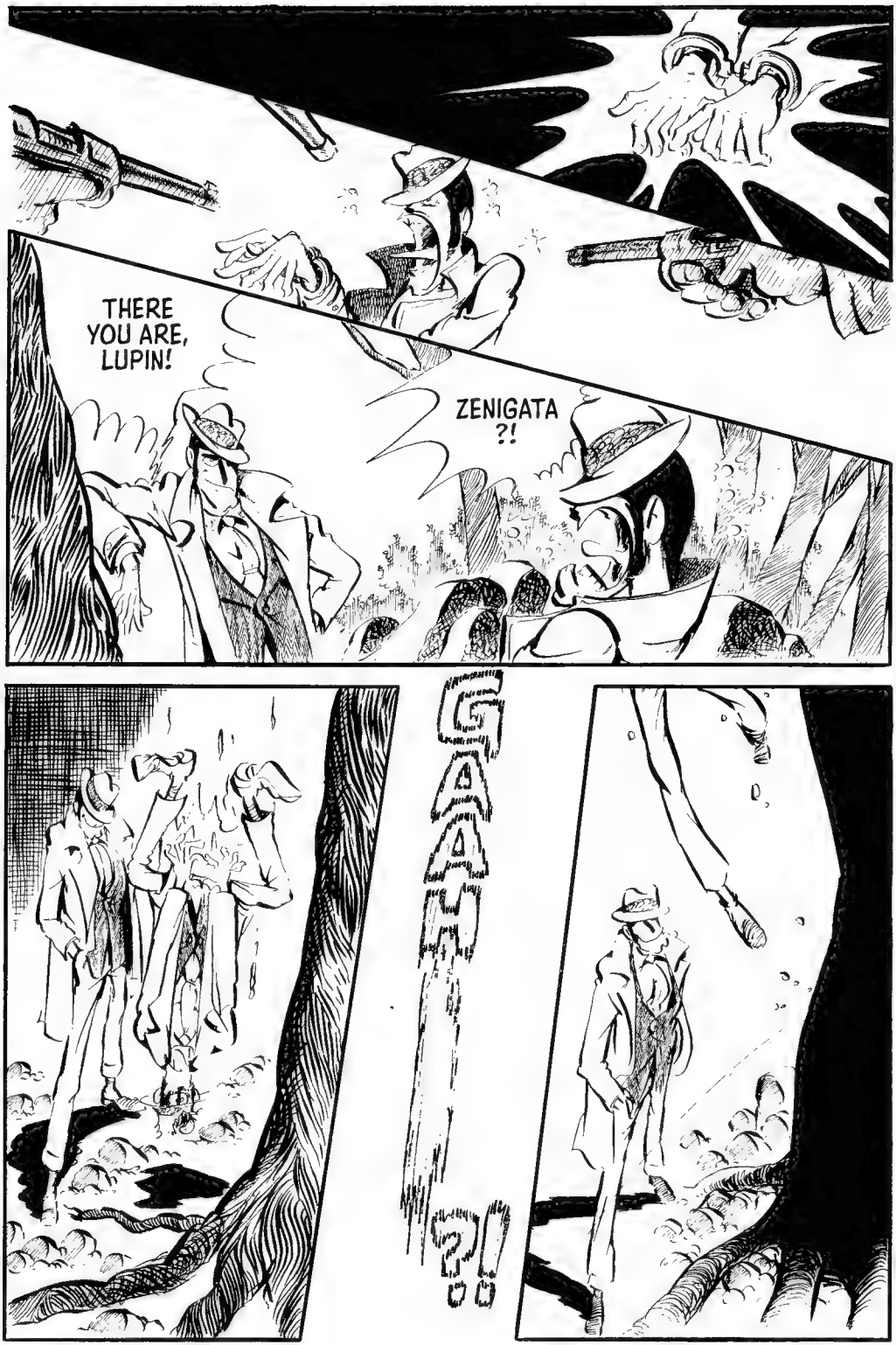

ZENIGATA!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME THE LOCATION OF THE LUPIN FAMILY TOMB.
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO INTERRUPT YOU.
GO ON.
SHOVE
IF LUPIN FINDS OUT ABOUT THAT, YOU'LL BE A DEAD MAN WALKING.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO GUARD ME!
WE CAN TALK WHILE YOU GET BUSY. HERE. TAKE THESE OFF.
DON'T YOU?
THESE SHOULD GO, TOO, I'D THINK.
WHAT? WASN'T THAT ENOUGH?
EASIER, RIGHT?
THERE.


MUST I DO EVERY-THING?
LIKE THIS.
AND LIKE THIS.
WHOMP
I'D RATHER NOT LET WORD OF THAT TOMB GET OUT, YOU KNOW.
IT'S A SECRET I ASK YOU BOTH TO TAKE TO YOUR GRAVES.
I REALLY, REALLY DON'T WANT YOU TALKING.
HOW RUDE!
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF H-NATION, ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT!!
THE POLICE COMMISSIONER!
WHO'RE YOU CALLING?

YOU'RE LUPIN... AREN'T YOU?!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE YOUR COUNTRY BACK TO LUPIN?
I FOUND THAT ISLAND. I REALIZED IT WAS FREE FOR THE TAKING.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU BEFORE YOU GET IT?
SO I CLAIMED IT AND DECLARED MYSELF PRESIDENT.
YES, YES. AND THE U.N. RECOG-NIZED IT.
THAT ISLAND HAS LONG BELONGED TO THE LUPIN FAMILY. IT IS THE LUPIN EMPIRE!
BUT LUPIN DOES NOT!

TH UU K
I WILL USE ANY MEANS TO PROTECT THAT TOMB...
AND THIS IS THE BEST MEANS I COULD THINK UP!

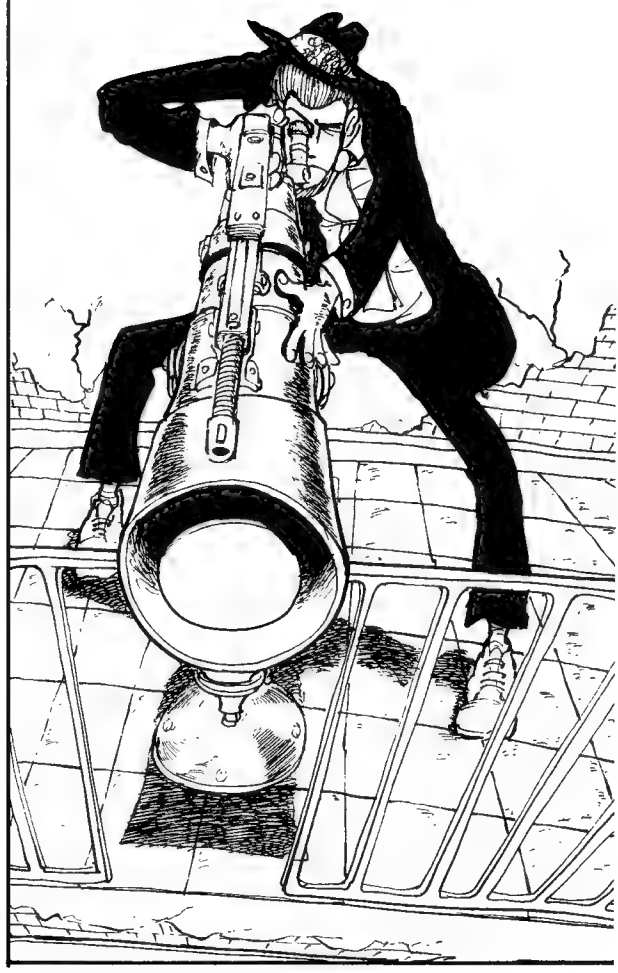

I ALWAYS GET!
WHAT I WANT...
I'M LUPIN THE THIRD.


THERE YOU ARE, LUPIN!
ZENIGATA ?!
GAAN!
?!

I'M LUPIN THE THIRD! I ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!
THAT IS WHY HE'LL NEVER BREATHE WORD OF THE TOMB.
THE PRESIDENT OF H-NATION IS NOW CONVINCED HE IS LUPIN.
ONE JAB OF THIS SERUM MAKES ANYONE THINK THAT THEY'RE LUPIN THE THIRD.
DON'T TRY TO RUN. YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME!
WHY DON'T WE HURRY AND GET YOU OUT OF THOSE?
BUT THERE WAS ONE OTHER PERSON WHO KNOWS MY SECRET. THE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY! SHE, TOO...!!
HEH HEH! HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
NO ONE EVER GETS AWAY FROM LUPIN THE THIRD! HEH HEH!!

Thieves' War (Part 3) / END

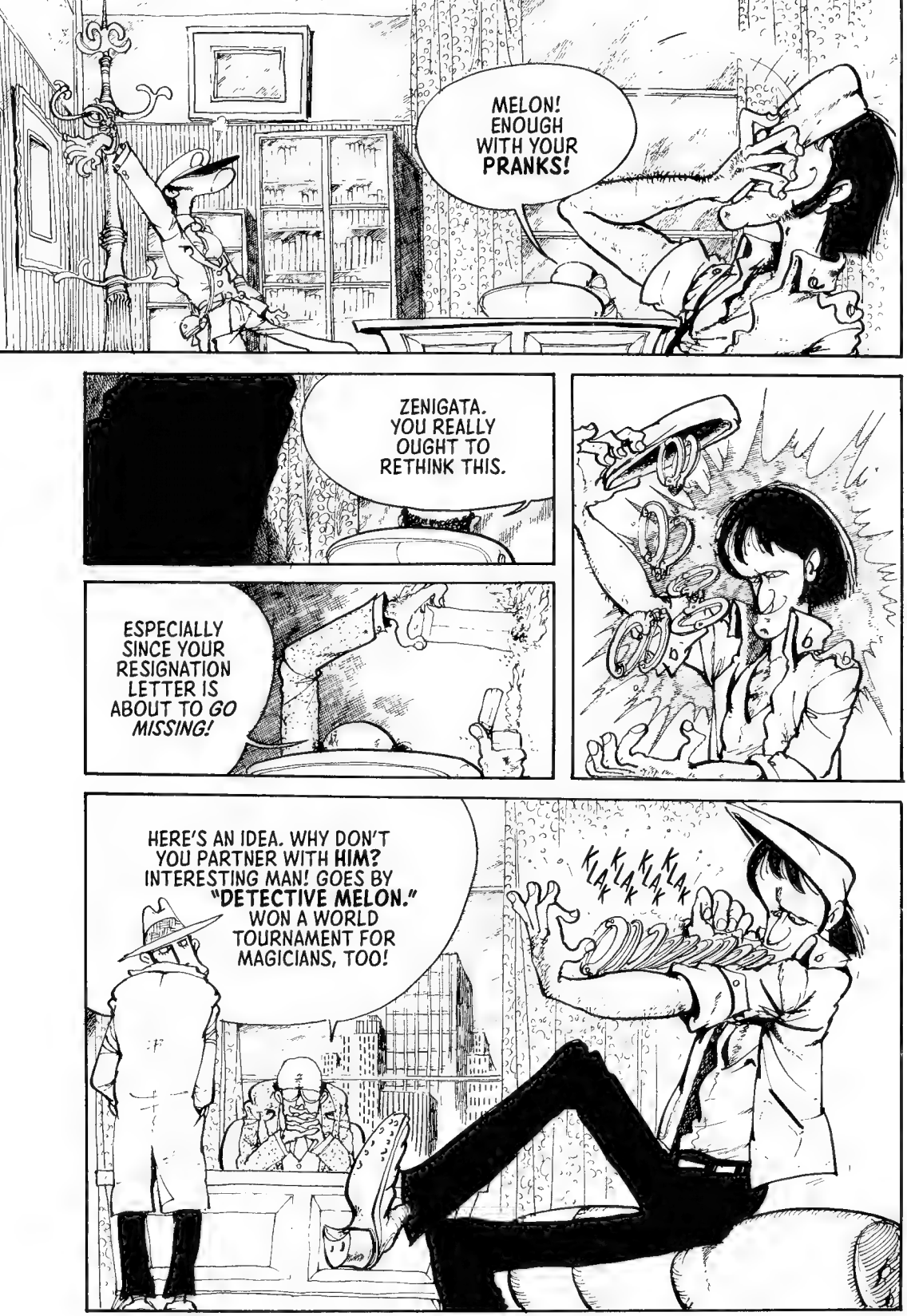
DAISUKE JIGEN



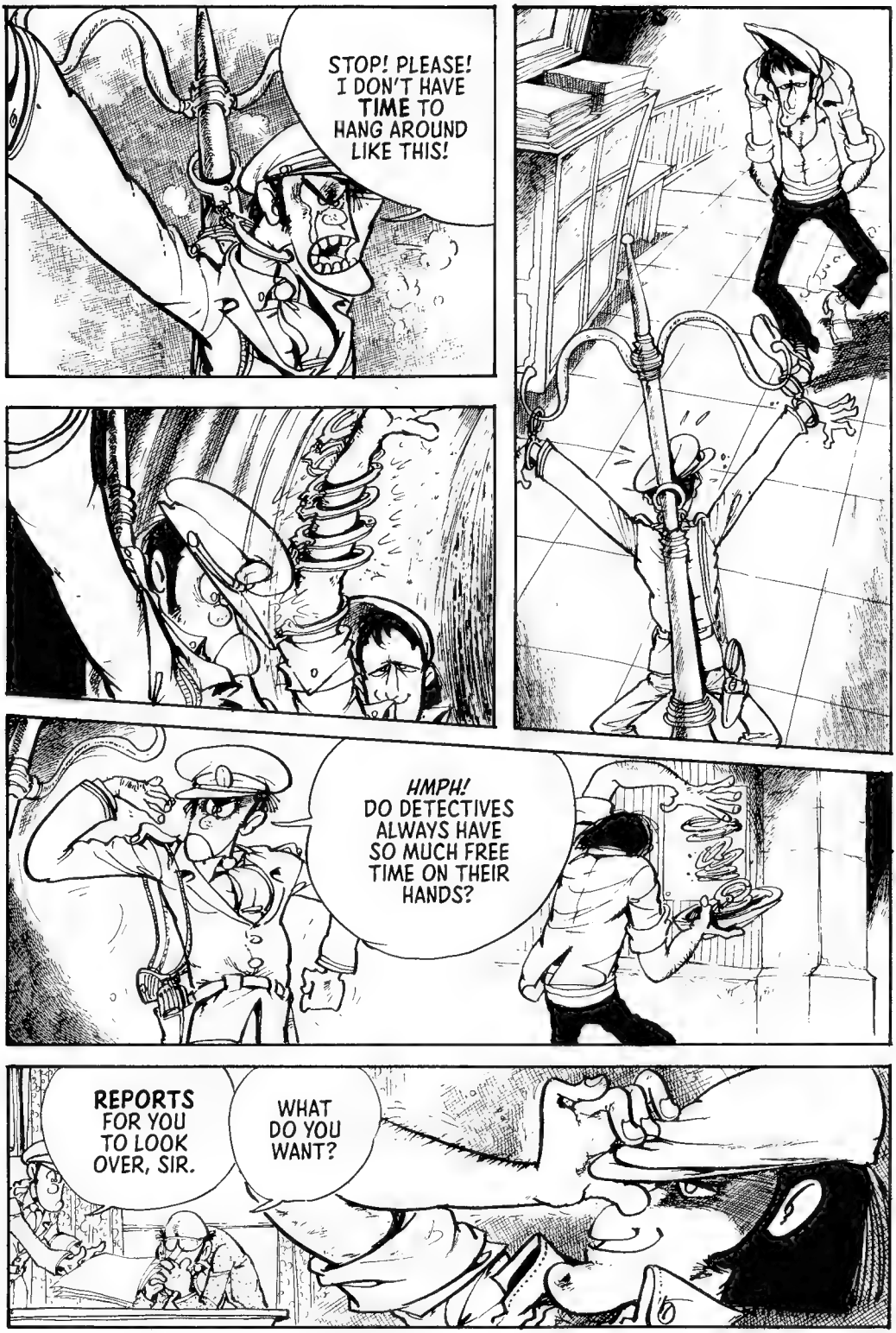
Detective Melon

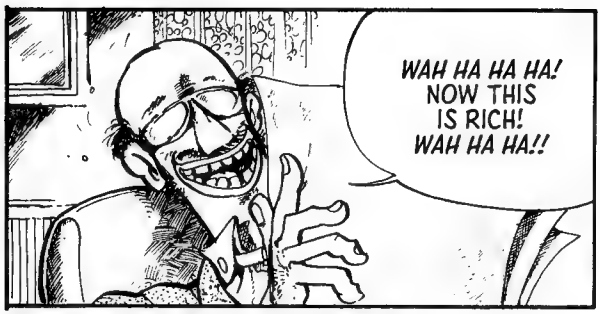
RESIGNATION
OHO! REALLY NOW. I'M JEALOUS.
AND THAT ONE PIECE OF PAPER THERE WILL LET YOU WALK CLEAN AWAY FROM IT ALL.
YOU MAKE ONE MISTAKE, THEN GO ON AND ON ABOUT HAVING TO "TAKE RESPONSIBILITY" FOR IT...
YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN...

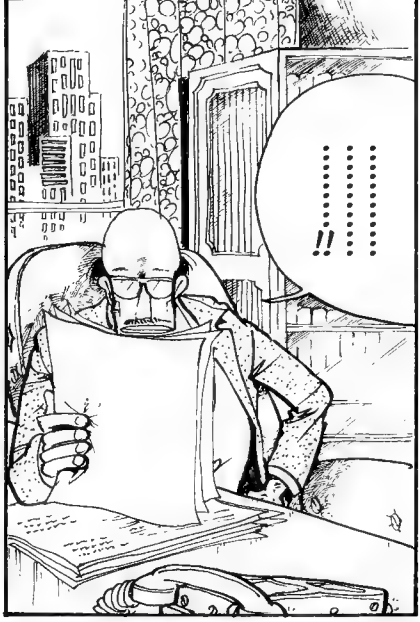
.....
ZENIGATA.
PARDON THE INTRUSION.


MELON! ENOUGH WITH YOUR PRANKS!
ZENIGATA. YOU REALLY OUGHT TO RETHINK THIS.
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUR RESIGNATION LETTER IS ABOUT TO *GO MISSING!*
HERE'S AN IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU PARTNER WITH **HIM?** INTERESTING MAN! GOES BY **"DETECTIVE MELON."** WON A WORLD TOURNAMENT FOR MAGICIANS, TOO!
KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

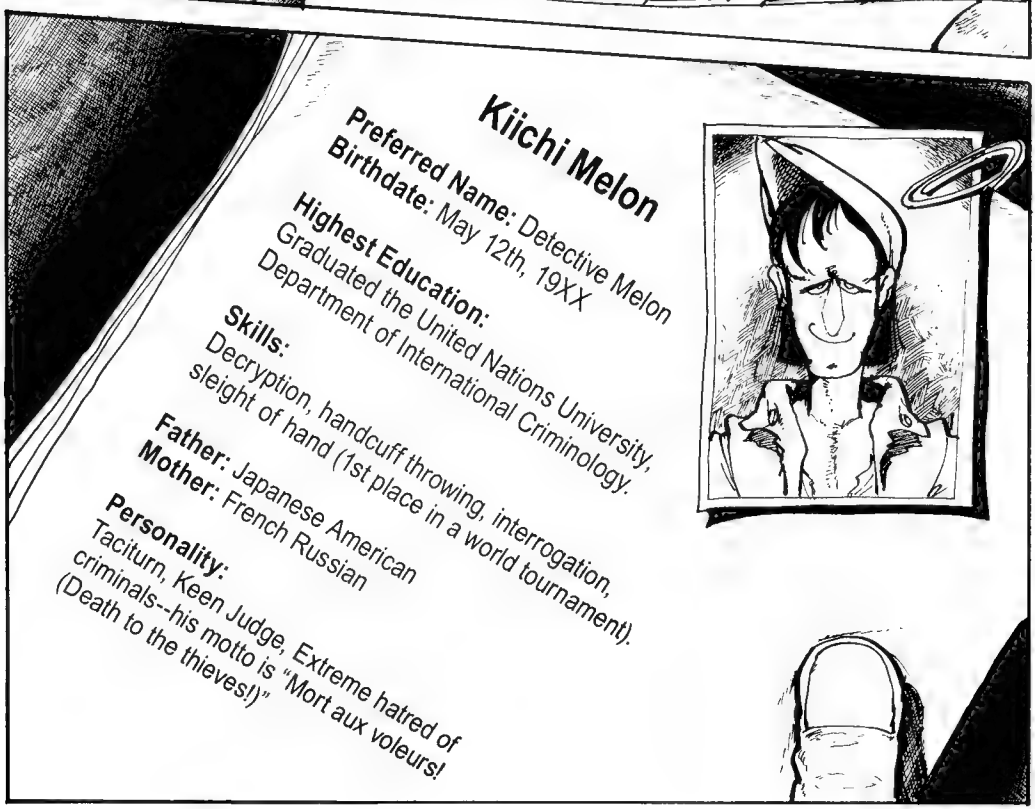
HONESTLY CAN'T SEE HOW PARLOR TRICKS FOR ENTERTAINING KIDS WILL HELP CAPTURE LUPIN.

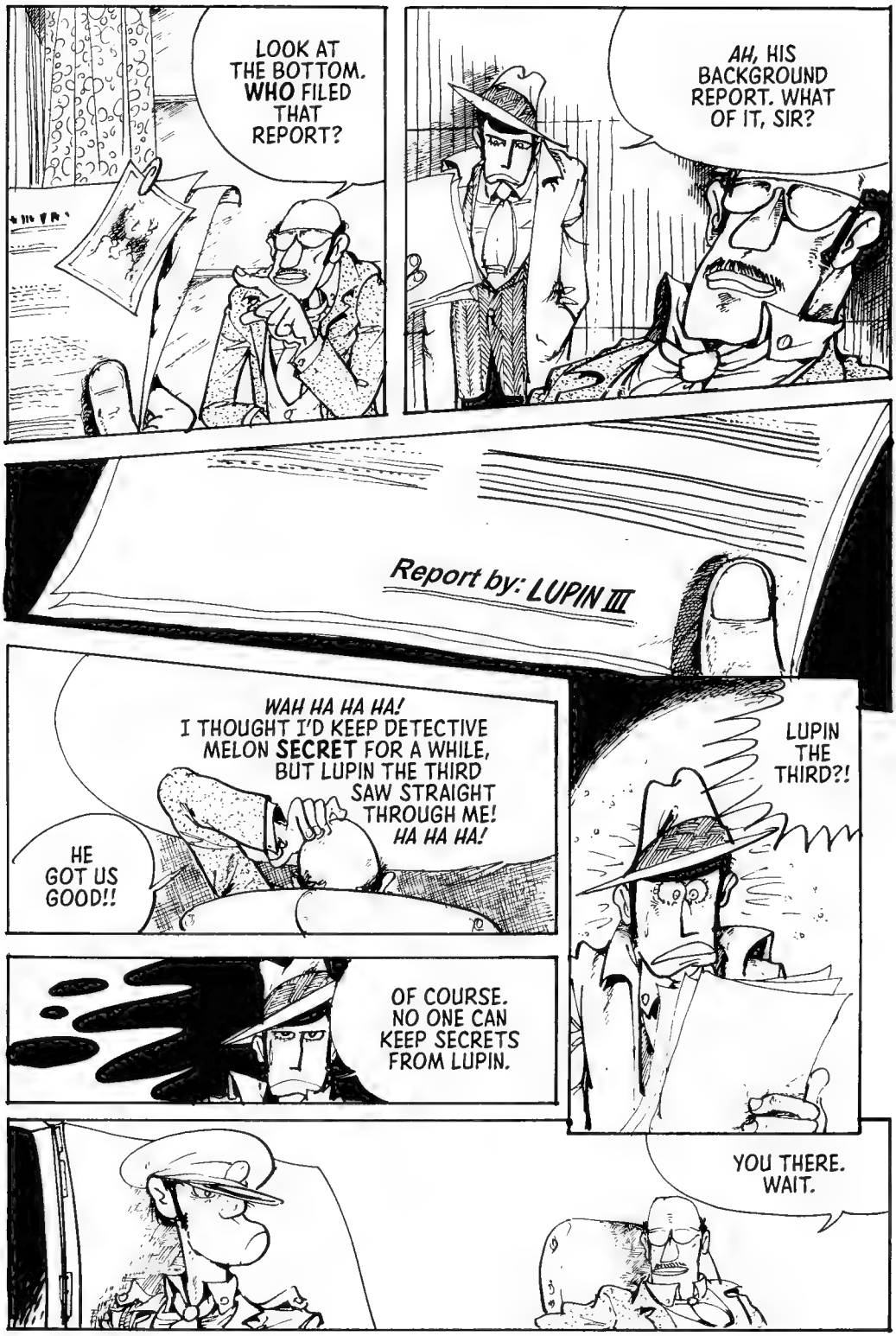

STOP! PLEASE! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO HANG AROUND LIKE THIS!
HMPH! DO DETECTIVES ALWAYS HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME ON THEIR HANDS?
REPORTS FOR YOU TO LOOK OVER, SIR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

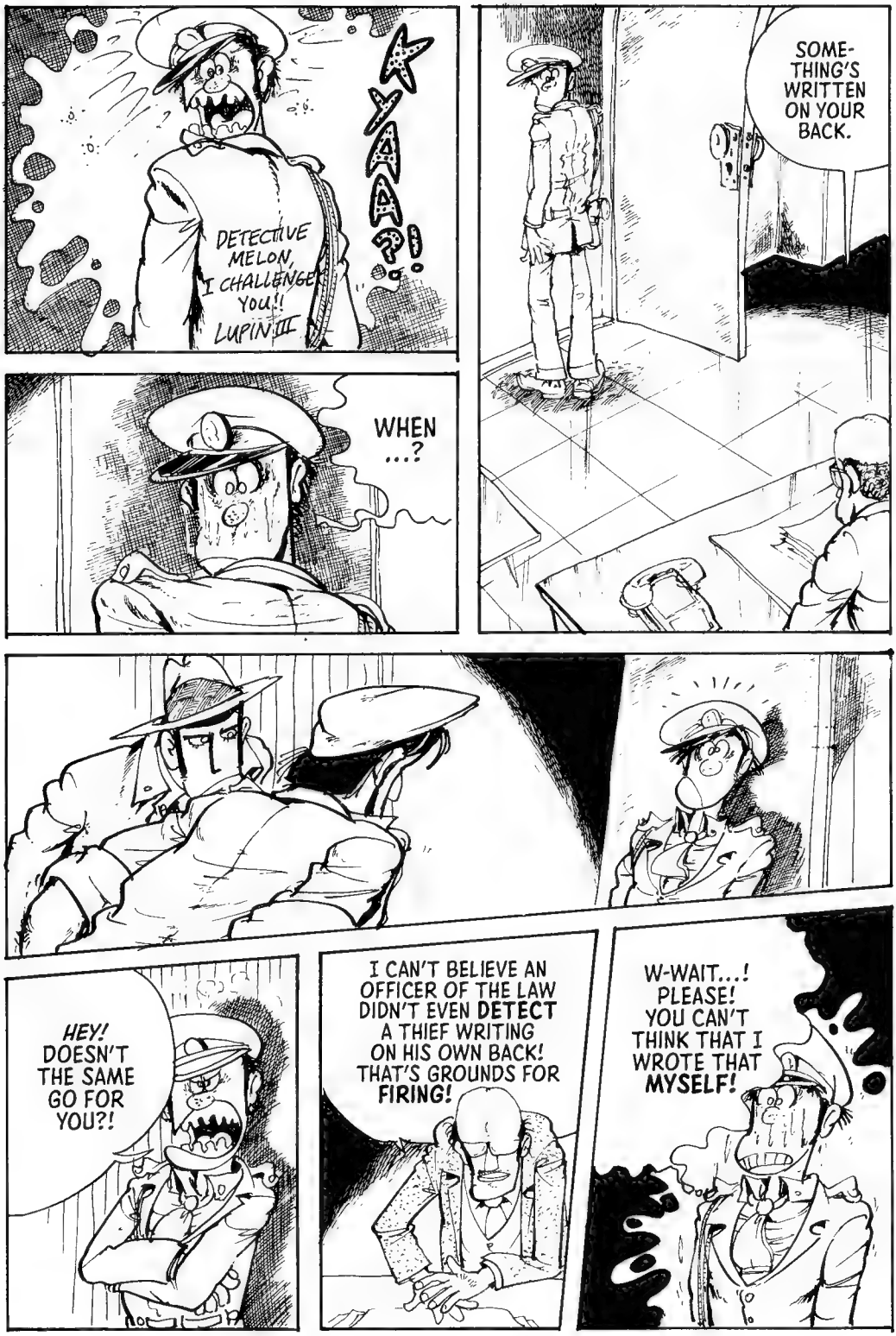

WAH HA HA HA!
NOW THIS
IS RICH!
WAH HA HA!!

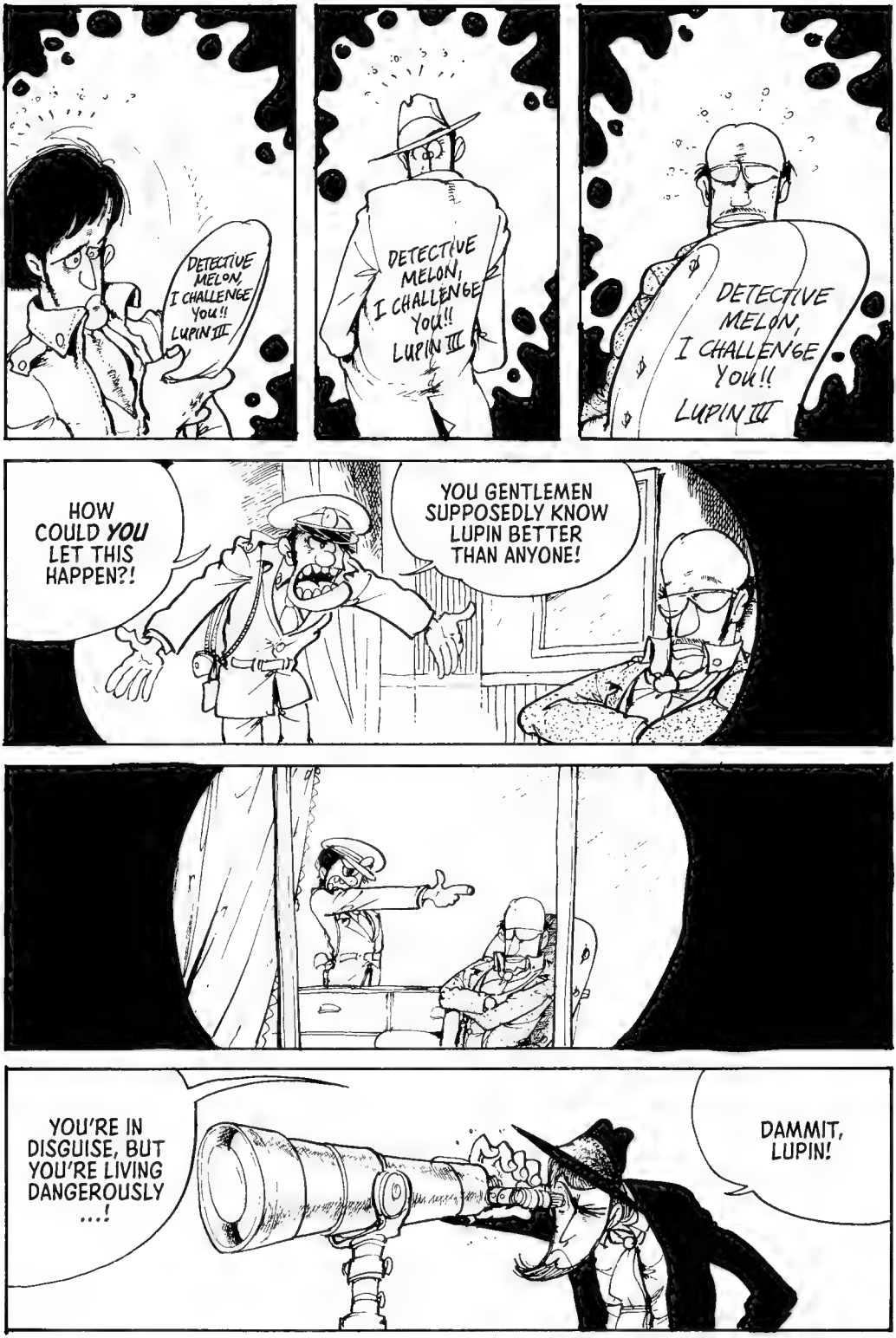

!!

TAKE A
LOOK.


Kiichi Melon
Preferred Name: Detective Melon
Birthdate: May 12th, 19XX
Highest Education:
Graduated the United Nations University,
Department of International Criminology.
Skills:
Decryption, handcuff throwing, interrogation,
sleight of hand (1st place in a world tournament).
Father: Japanese American
Mother: French Russian
Personality:
Taciturn, Keen Judge, Extreme hatred of
criminals--his motto is "Mort aux voleurs!
(Death to the thieves!)"


LOOK AT THE BOTTOM. WHO FILED THAT REPORT?
AH, HIS BACKGROUND REPORT. WHAT OF IT, SIR?
Report by: LUPIN III
WAH HA HA HA! I THOUGHT I'D KEEP DETECTIVE MELON SECRET FOR A WHILE, BUT LUPIN THE THIRD SAW STRAIGHT THROUGH ME! HA HA HA!
HE GOT US GOOD!!
LUPIN THE THIRD?!
OF COURSE. NO ONE CAN KEEP SECRETS FROM LUPIN.
YOU THERE. WAIT.


YAAA?!
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
WHEN ...?
SOME-THING'S WRITTEN ON YOUR BACK.
HEY! DOESN'T THE SAME GO FOR YOU?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE AN OFFICER OF THE LAW DIDN'T EVEN DETECT A THIEF WRITING ON HIS OWN BACK! THAT'S GROUNDS FOR FIRING!
W-WAIT...! PLEASE! YOU CAN'T THINK THAT I WROTE THAT MYSELF!

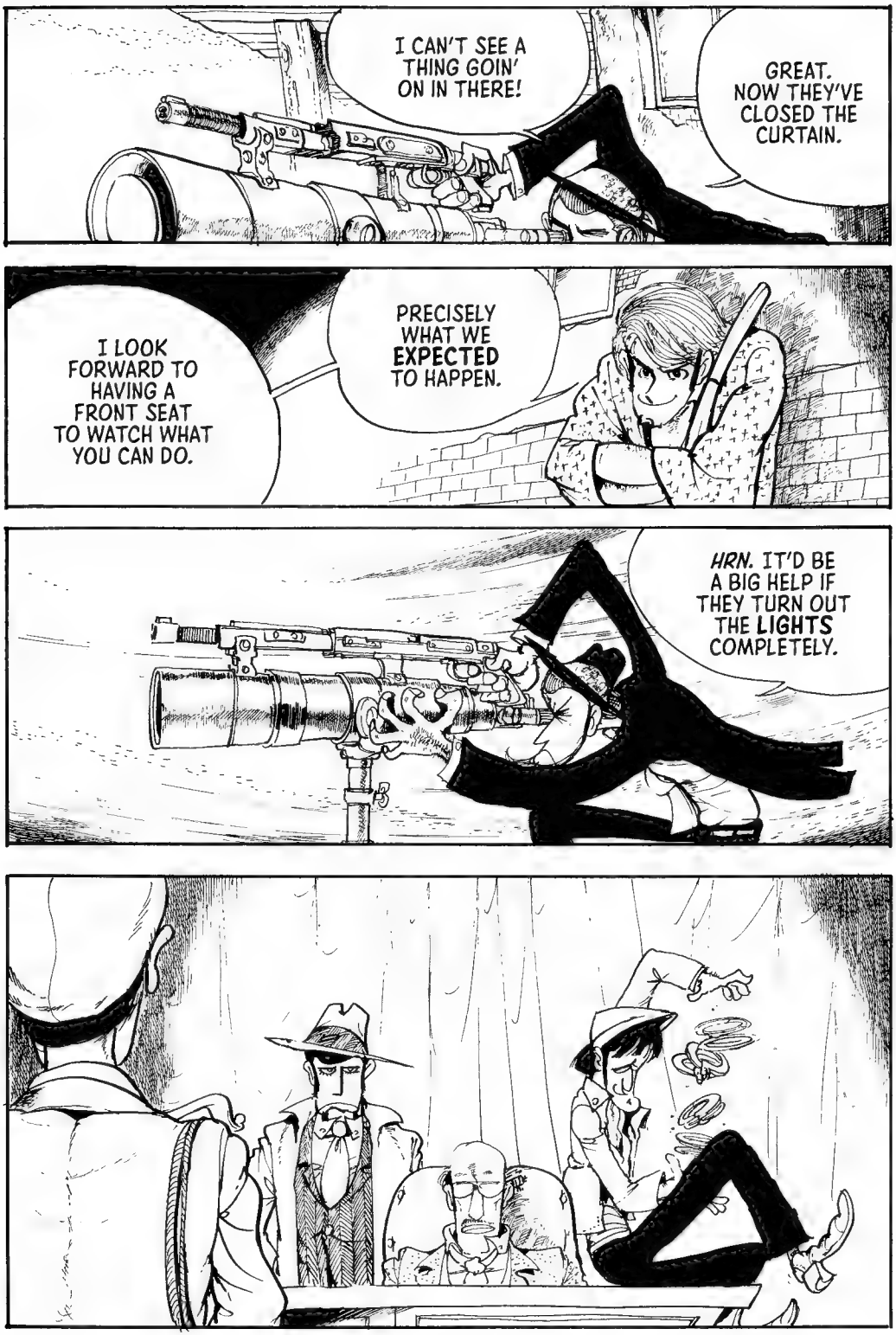

DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
HOW COULD *YOU* LET THIS HAPPEN?!
YOU GENTLEMEN SUPPOSEDLY KNOW LUPIN BETTER THAN ANYONE!
YOU'RE IN DISGUISE, BUT YOU'RE LIVING DANGEROUSLY ...!
DAMMIT, LUPIN!

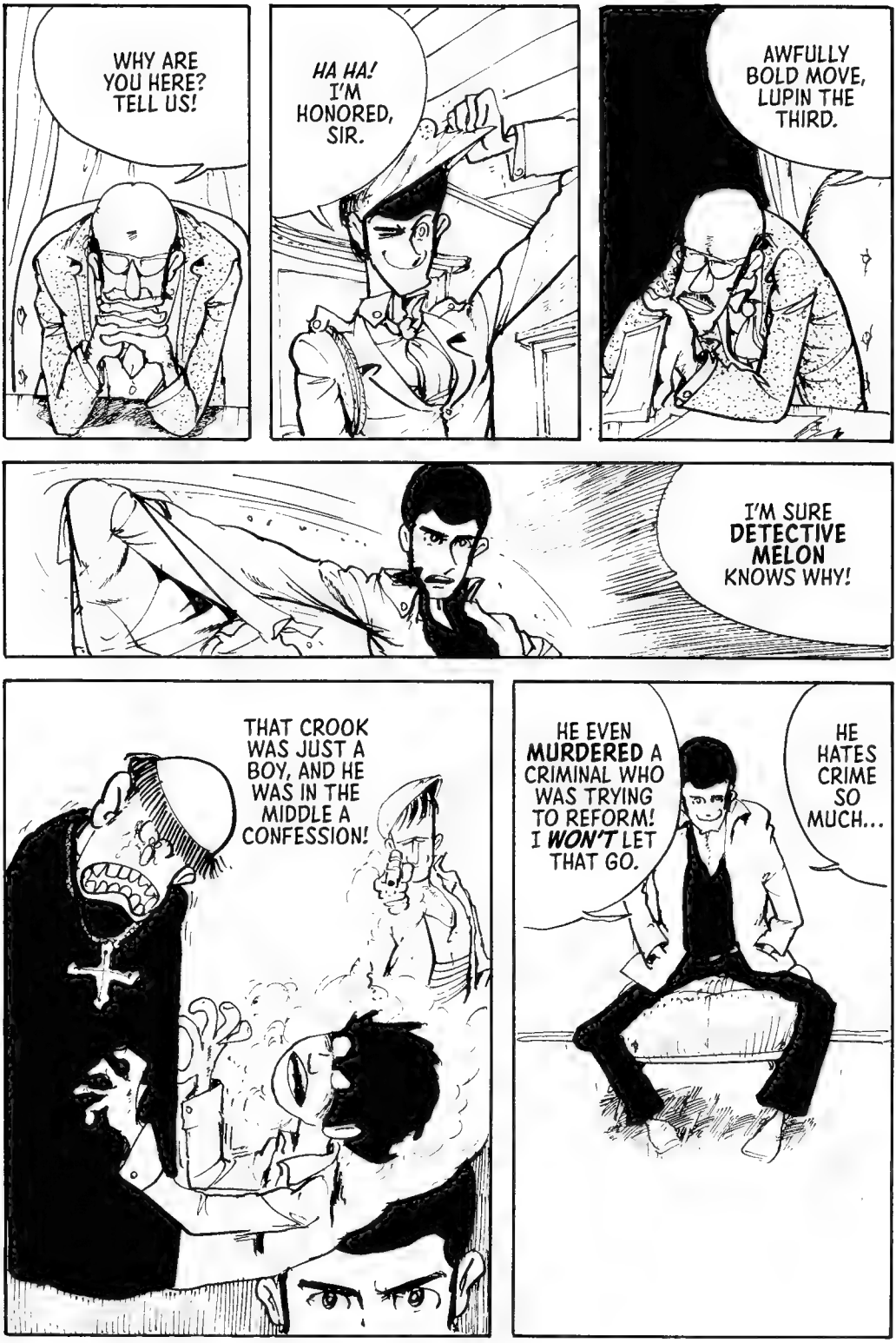
I KNOW, BUT HE'S GETTING FULL OF HIMSELF. IT'S A **BAD HABIT** OF HIS.
HE DID INSIST ON MEETING DETECTIVE MELON BEFORE OUR NEXT JOB.
YOU AREN'T ALL YOU'RE CRACKED UP TO BE!
AND YOU, DETECTIVE MELON!
FOR ALL YOUR FANCY ENTRANCE **YOU** LET LUPIN GET AWAY WITH IT, TOO!
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III

LET ME SEE!!
HRN? DETECTIVE MELON SNAPPED A PHOTO? ODD TIME FOR A MUG SHOT.
THE PHOTO WILL SHOW LUPIN'S REAL FACE, CLEAR AS DAY...!!
OH NO! THAT'S A LASER CAMERA THAT CAN SEE STRAIGHT THROUGH THE VINYL OF OUR DISGUISES!
HEH HEH.
SLAP
DAMMIT! LUPIN'S COVER IS BLOWN AND HE HAS NO IDEA!
UGH ...!

WE'VE GOT TO BACK HIM UP, JIGEN!
HEH HEH HEH. HEY, MR. ZENI. TAKE A GANDER AT THIS.
HN?!
HOLD IT!

AHA! GOTCHA. DETECTIVE MELON'S A SHARP ONE.
HE'S SEEN STRAIGHT THROUGH US.
I WARNED YOU THAT THIS PLAN WAS TOO RISKY!


I CAN'T SEE A THING GOIN' ON IN THERE!
GREAT. NOW THEY'VE CLOSED THE CURTAIN.
I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING A FRONT SEAT TO WATCH WHAT YOU CAN DO.
PRECISELY WHAT WE EXPECTED TO HAPPEN.
HRN. IT'D BE A BIG HELP IF THEY TURN OUT THE LIGHTS COMPLETELY.


WHY ARE YOU HERE? TELL US!
HA HA! I'M HONORED, SIR.
AWFULLY BOLD MOVE, LUPIN THE THIRD.
I'M SURE DETECTIVE MELON KNOWS WHY!
THAT CROOK WAS JUST A BOY, AND HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE A CONFESSION!
HE EVEN MURDERED A CRIMINAL WHO WAS TRYING TO REFORM! I WON'T LET THAT GO.
HE HATES CRIME SO MUCH...

IT'S NOT CLOSED IN *MY* BOOK!
THAT CASE WAS CLOSED.
AND WE'RE WELL AWARE THAT YOU WERE CARING FOR THAT BOY. BUT...!
WHAT HAPPENED WAS UNFORTUNATE, YES.
SHADDAP, CHROME DOME! I SAID I **WON'T** LET IT GO, SO I WON'T! I'M GONNA INSTILL A **FEAR OF ME** IN DETECTIVE MELON SO DEEP HE'LL WANNA ***OFF HIMSELF!!***
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CLOSED THE CURTAINS!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'VE GOT MY GANG OUTSIDE, WITH ***YOU*** SQUARE IN THEIR SIGHTS.
HA HA HA!
HEH HEH HEH.
LUPIN, YOU FOOL! YOU THINK YOU CAN SIT AMONG US AND STILL GET AWAY?

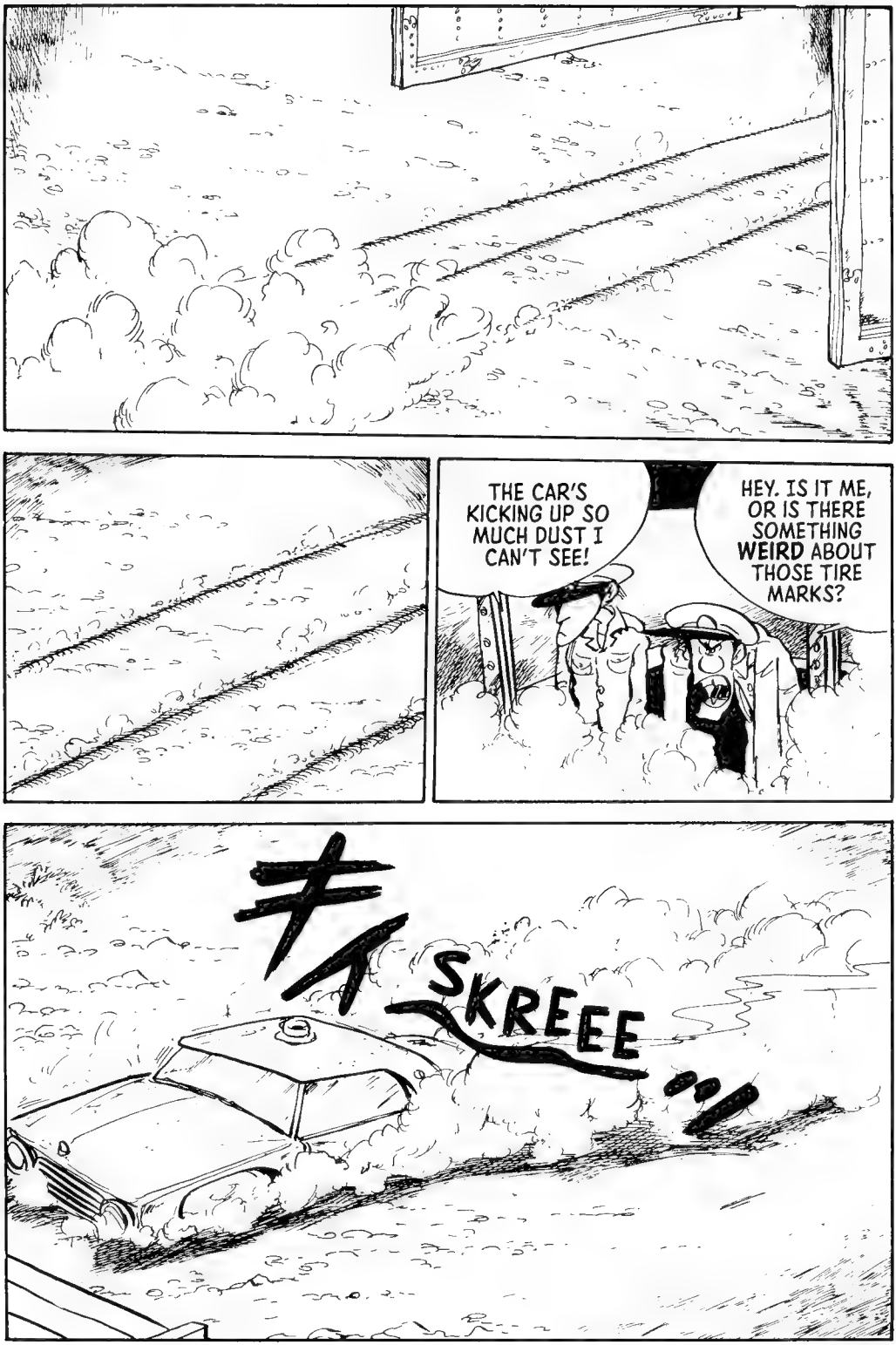
OOPS! WAIT. WITH THE LIGHT ON, THEY MIGHT SEE OUR SHADOWS.
FWIK
KISH
KISH
KISH
TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS WAS A MISTAKE, GENTLEMEN.
THAT MADE THE FLORESCENT PAINT I SCRIBBLED ON ALL OF YOU STAND OUT REEEAL NICE. KEE HEE HEE HEE!

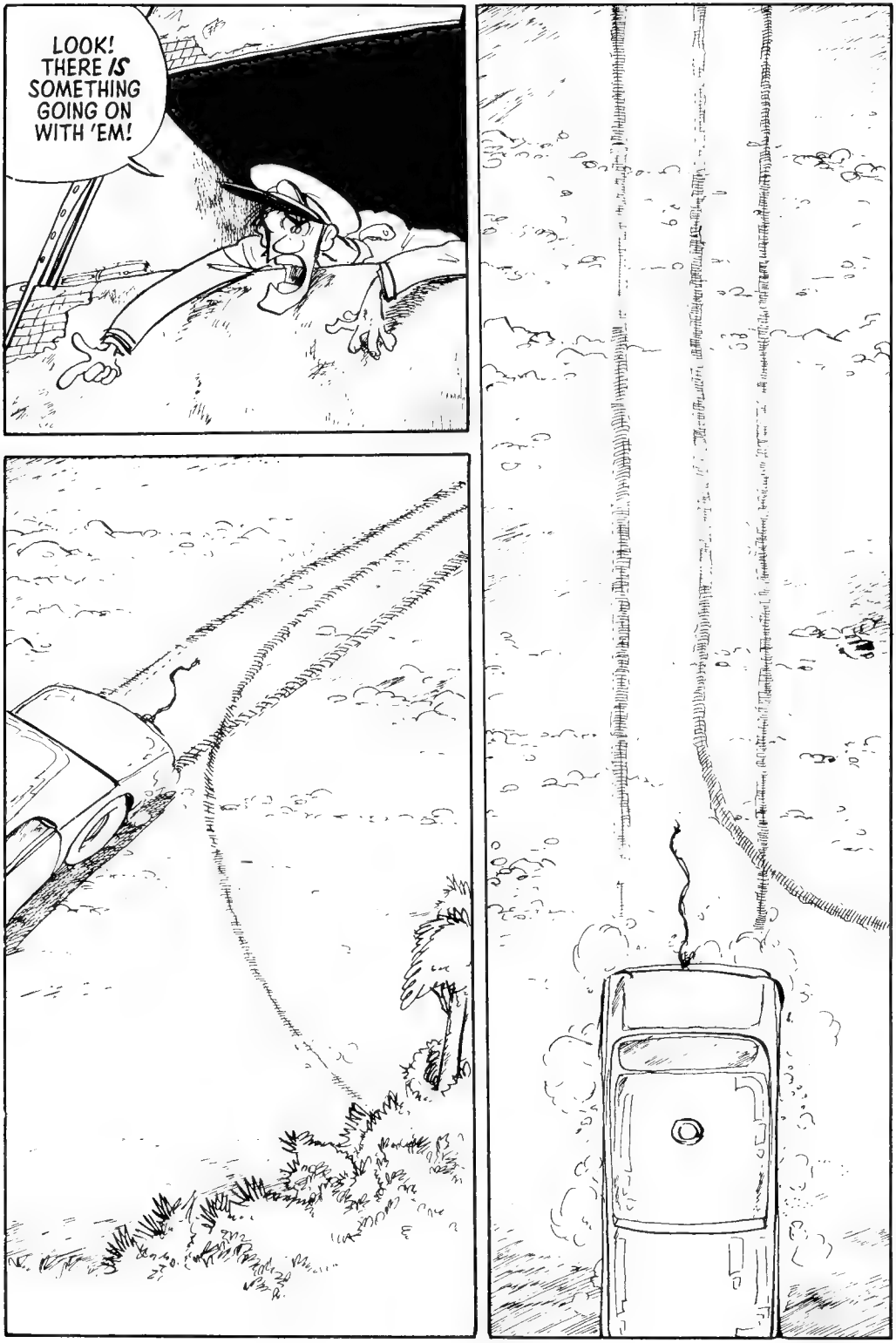
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
DETECTIVE MELON, I CHALLENGE YOU!! LUPIN III
AH?!
THAT'S A TRANQUILIZER GUN!
NOT BAD... LUPIN!

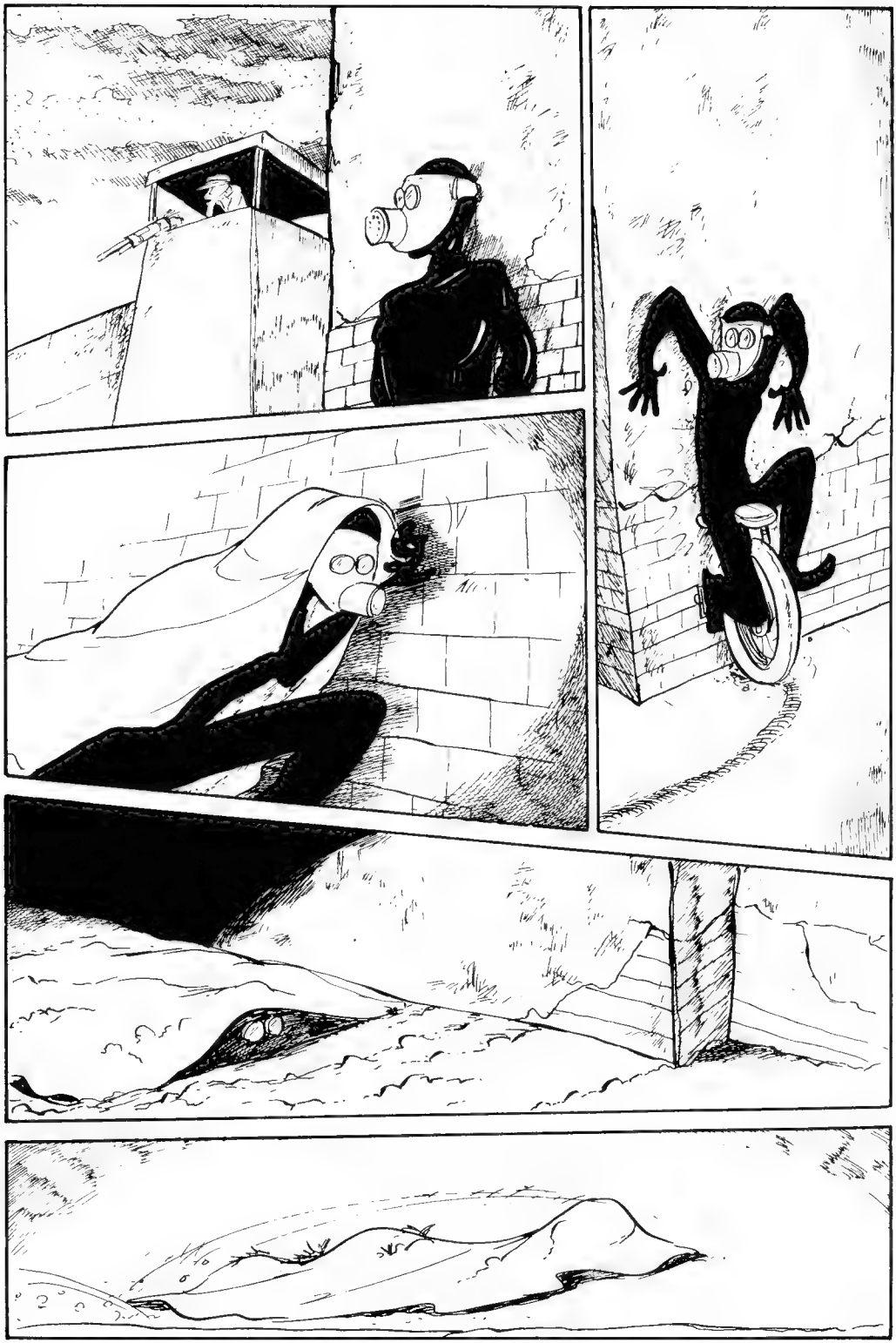
Detective Melon / END

Already Executed

CHIEF'S HERE!


THE CAR'S KICKING UP SO MUCH DUST I CAN'T SEE!
HEY. IS IT ME, OR IS THERE SOMETHING **WEIRD** ABOUT THOSE TIRE MARKS?
SKREEE

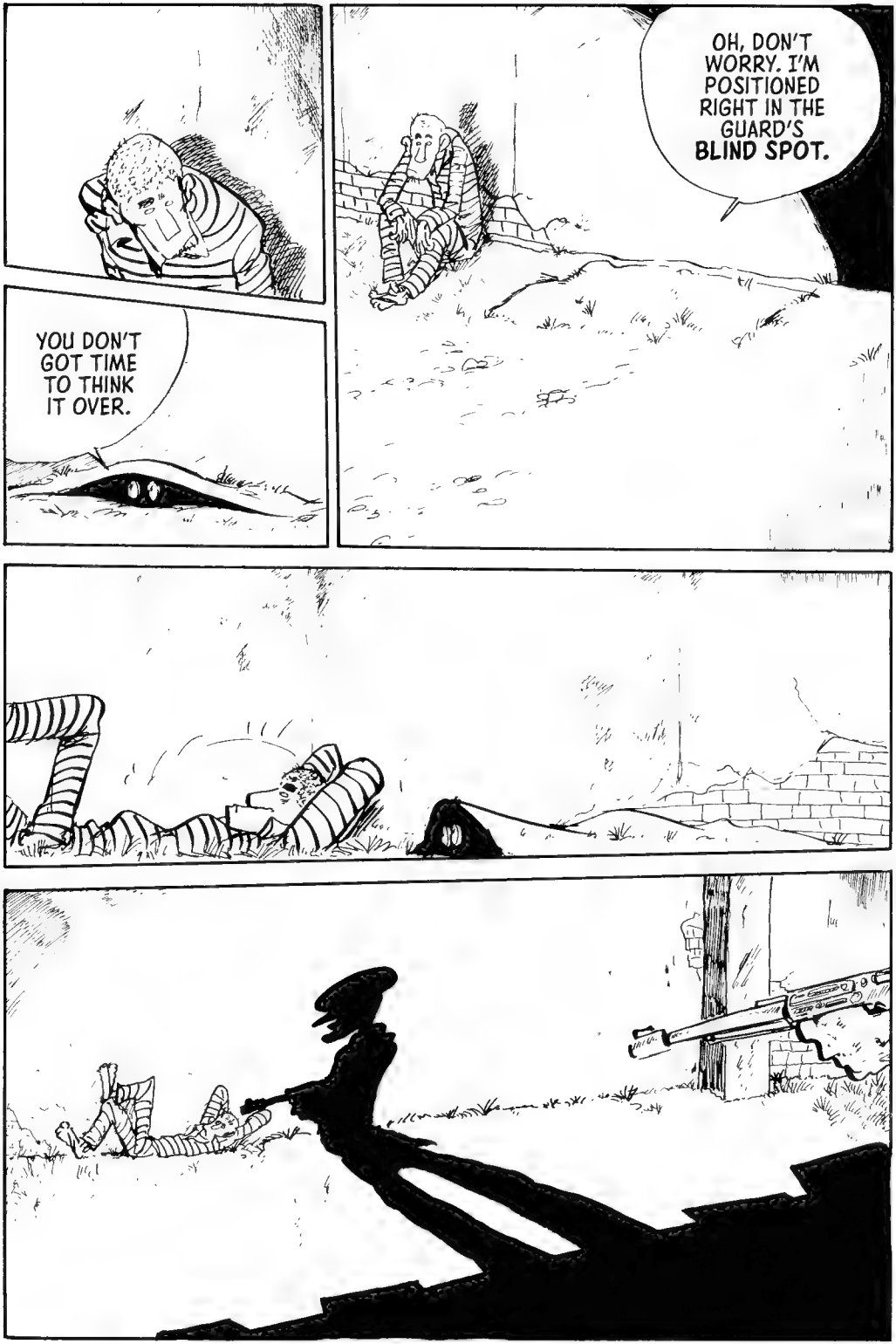

LOOK! THERE *IS* SOMETHING GOING ON WITH 'EM!

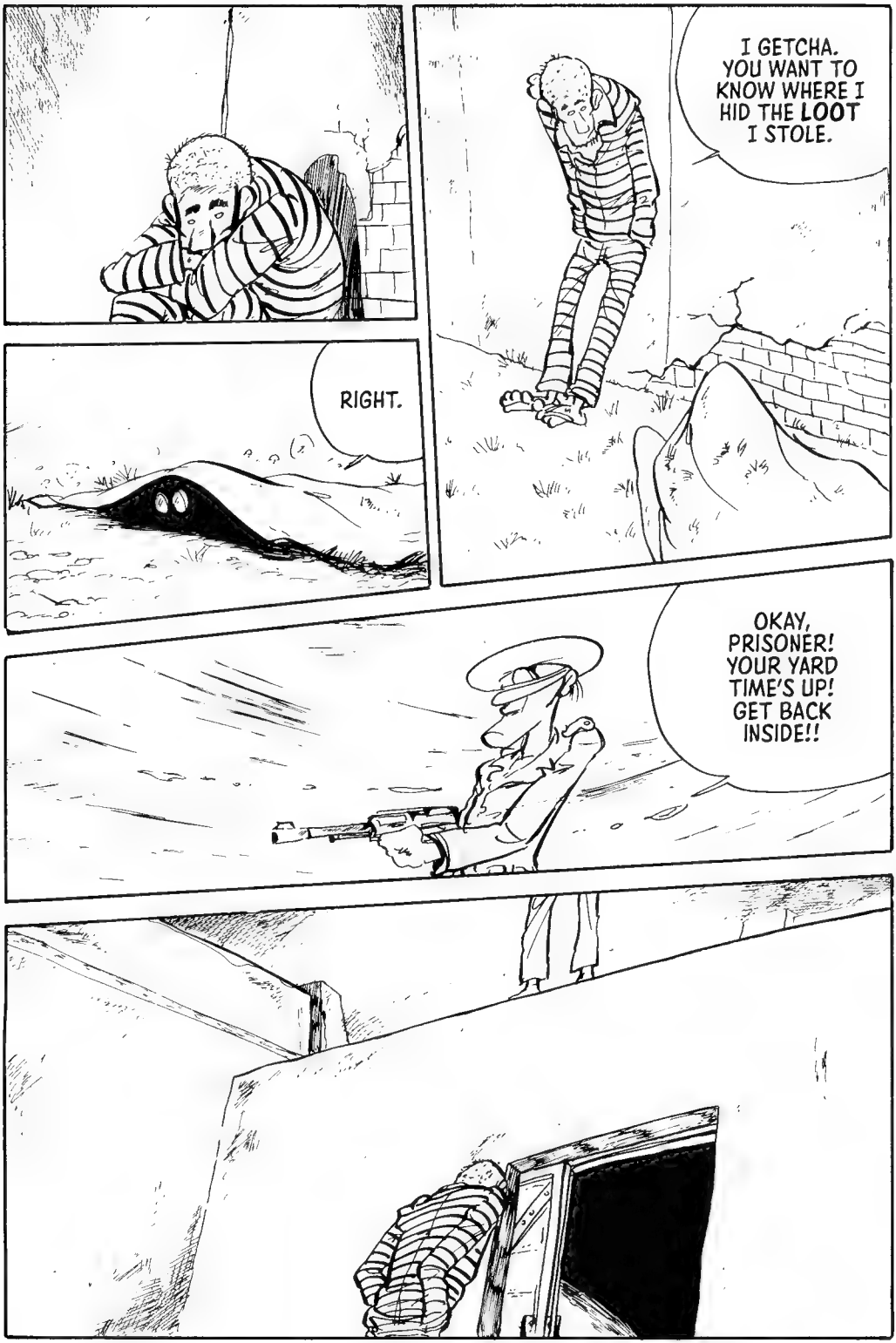


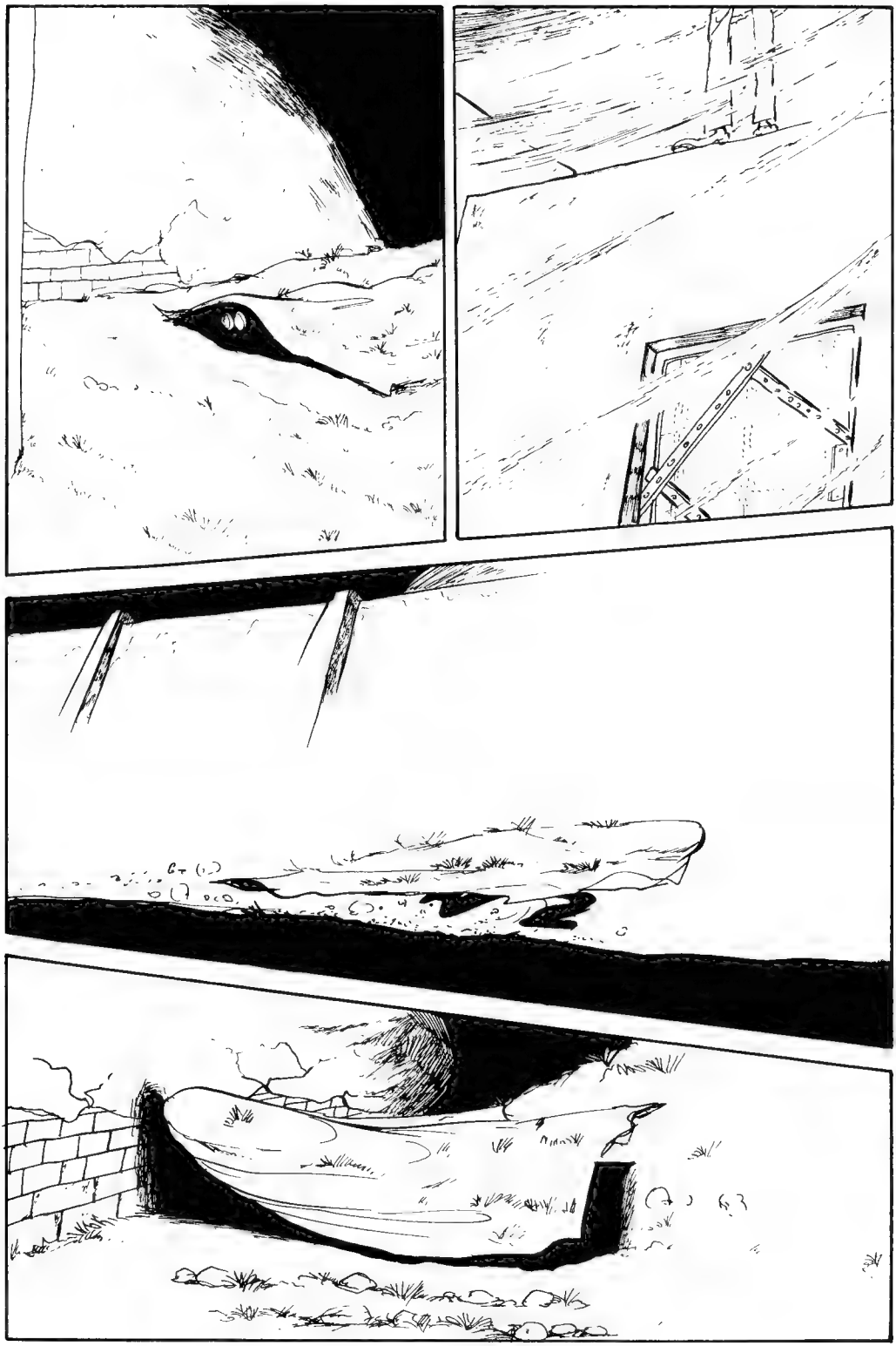
WHAT? YOU SAY SOMEONE SNUCK INTO THIS FACILITY BY CLINGING TO THE BACK OF MY CAR? YOU JUST COULDN'T SEE THEM THROUGH ALL THE DUST?
YES, SIR. WE INVESTIGATED YOUR VEHICLE AND JUST NOW DISCOVERED THIS ROPE.
FIND THE INTRUDER NOW.

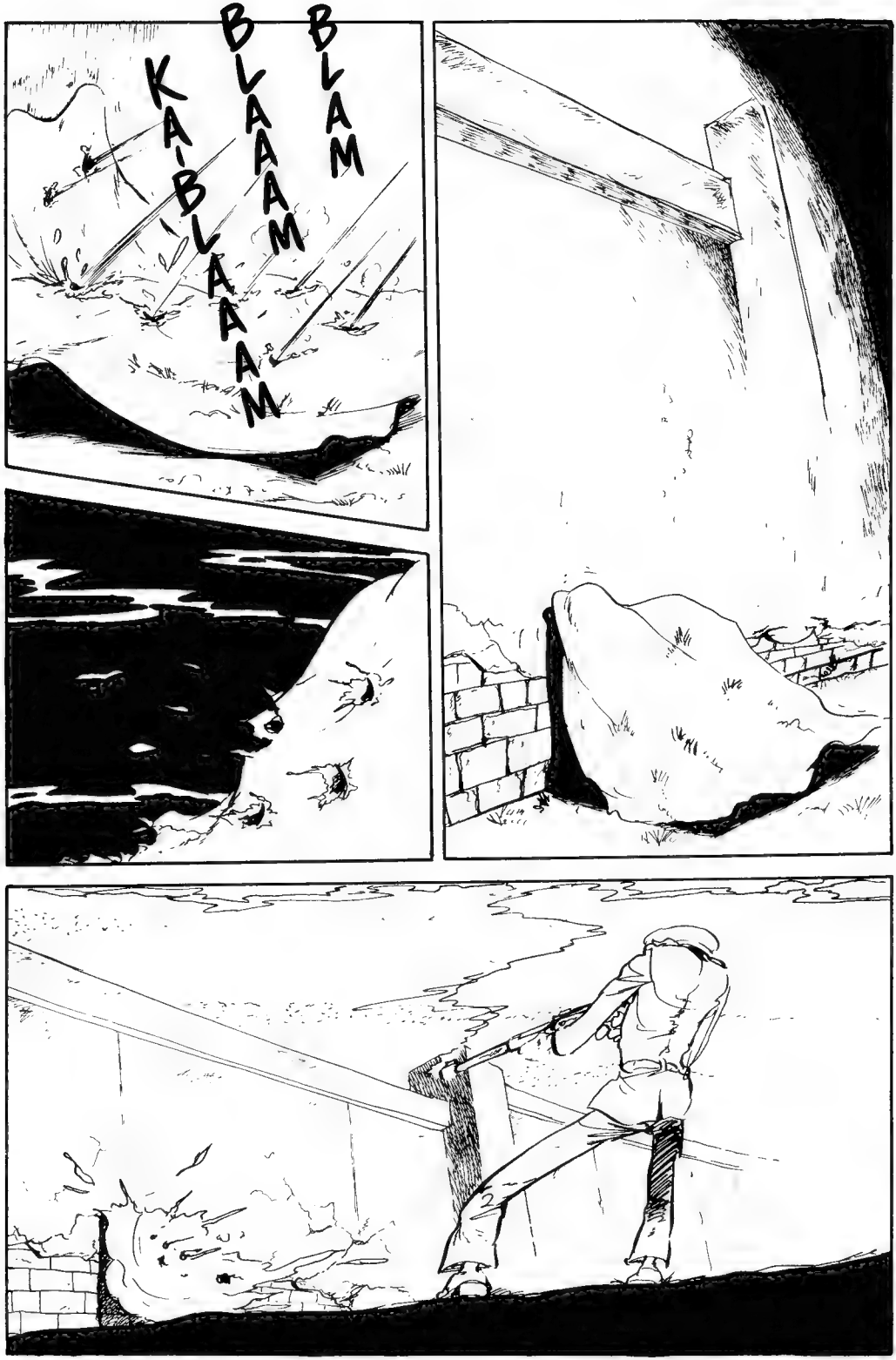
PSST! KUSOGUMO! I'M HERE TO BUST YOU OUT!
OOPS...! SHH! THE GUARD IS LOOKING THIS WAY!
WHAT ?!

LUPIN THE THIRD!
LUPIN ?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU WANNA GET OUTTA THIS JOINT, DON'TCHA?
HEH HEH... KUSOGUMO THE VICIOUS SERIAL KILLER. THEY SAY YOU'RE GETTIN' THE GAS CHAMBER.
YOU'RE TELLIN' THE GUARD EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE.
FOOL!
HEH HEH HEH HEH!


OH, DON'T WORRY. I'M POSITIONED RIGHT IN THE GUARD'S BLIND SPOT.
YOU DON'T GOT TIME TO THINK IT OVER.

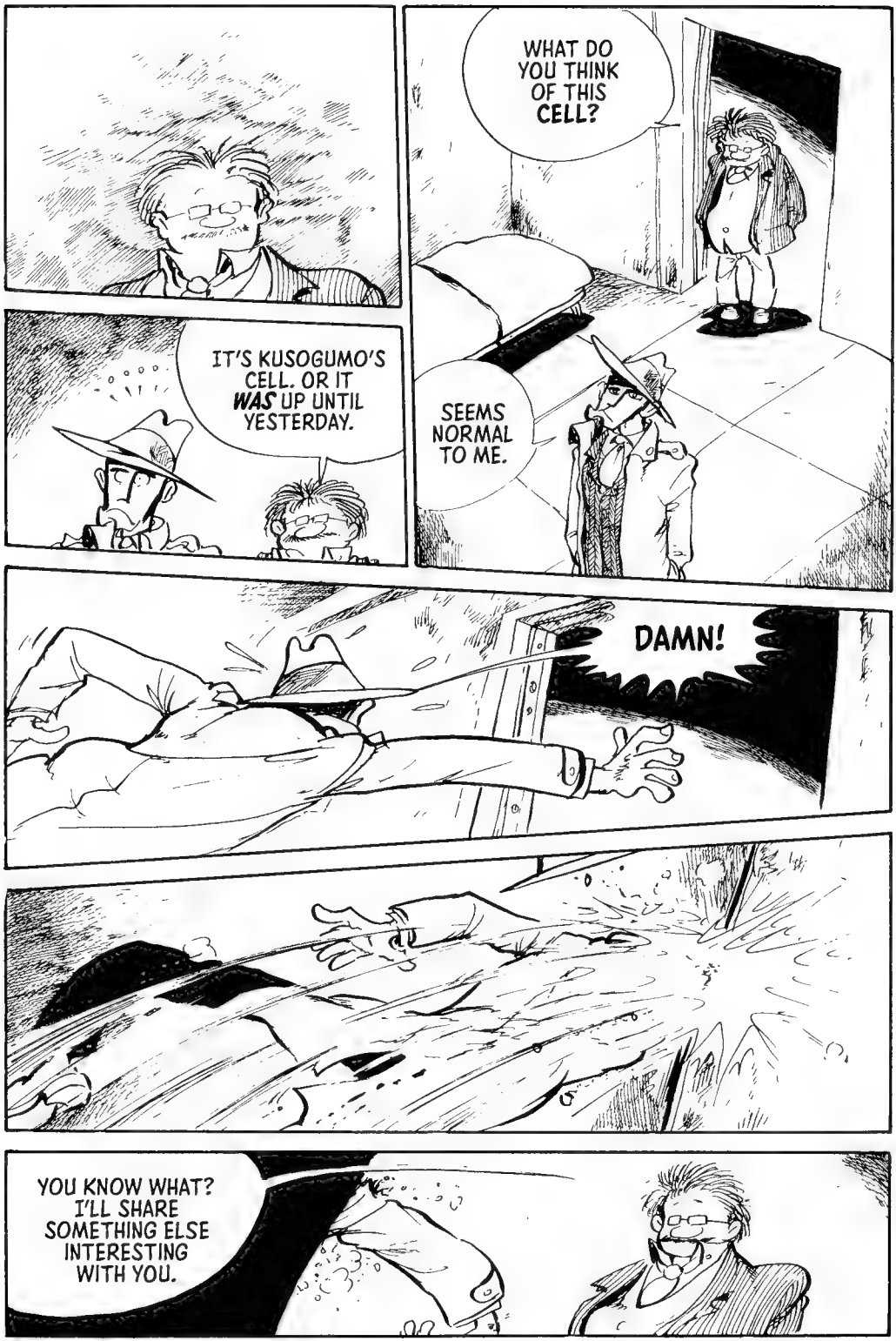

I GETCHA. YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I HID THE LOOT I STOLE.
RIGHT.
OKAY, PRISONER! YOUR YARD TIME'S UP! GET BACK INSIDE!!




KA-BLAAAM
BLAAAM
BLAM
BLAM

NOT THERE, *EH?*
OF COURSE NOT. LUPIN NEVER HIDES IN THE SAME SPOT FOR LONG!
SO *THAT'S* THE MAN YOU'RE AFTER, INSPECTOR ZENIGATA... THE GREAT THIEF "LUPIN THE THIRD."
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING IT COULD BE. HE'S HERE TO **BREAK SOMEONE OUT.**
BUT WHAT COULD HE WANT HERE, IN THIS PRISON?
WHO?!
HE IS?!

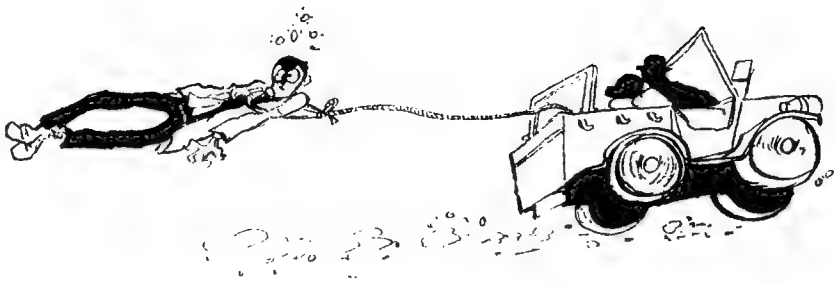
I SUSPECT IT'S DEATH ROW INMATE KUSOGUMO.
IS IT, NOW? THAT'S FUNNY.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY ROOM FOR JOKES WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH LUPIN.
NO, NO. TRUST ME. COME, I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING, ZENIGATA.

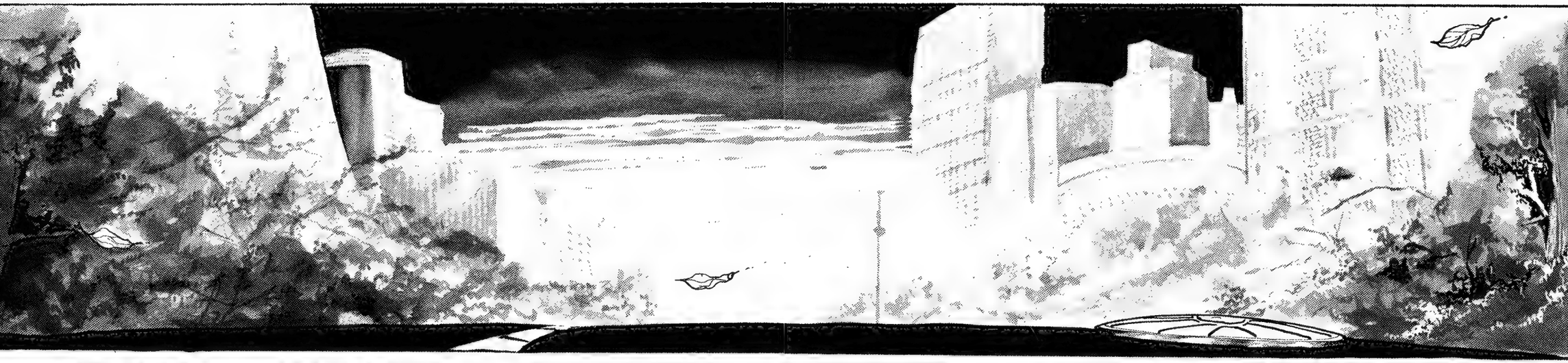

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CELL?
SEEMS NORMAL TO ME.
IT'S KUSOGUMO'S CELL. OR IT *WAS* UP UNTIL YESTERDAY.
DAMN!
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'LL SHARE SOMETHING ELSE INTERESTING WITH YOU.

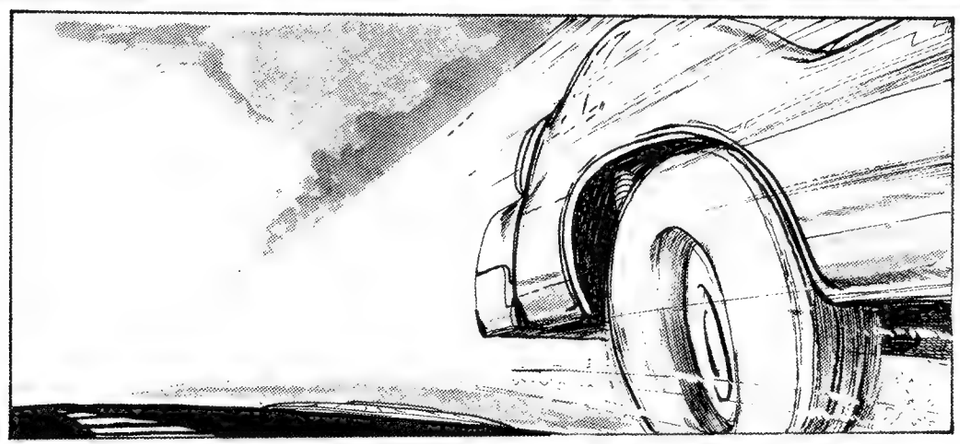
KUSOGUMO WAS **EXECUTED** LAST NIGHT.
THE ***REAL*** INSPECTOR ZENIGATA WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT.
THEN THE MAN IN THE JAIL YARD WAS A FAKE?!
OF COURSE! THAT WAS ONE OF MY MEN... **LUPIN!**
MY PARTNER GOEMON!
I ASSUME THE MAN IN BLACK WAS ONE OF YOURS?

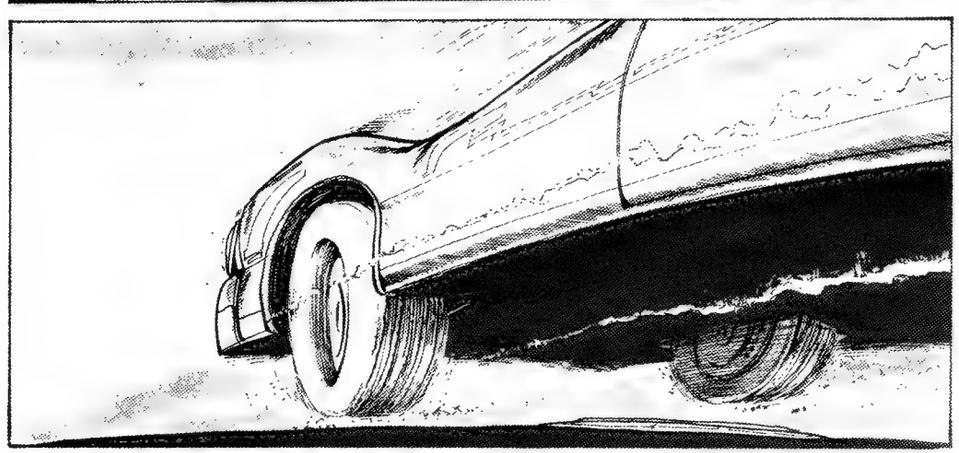
Already Executed / END

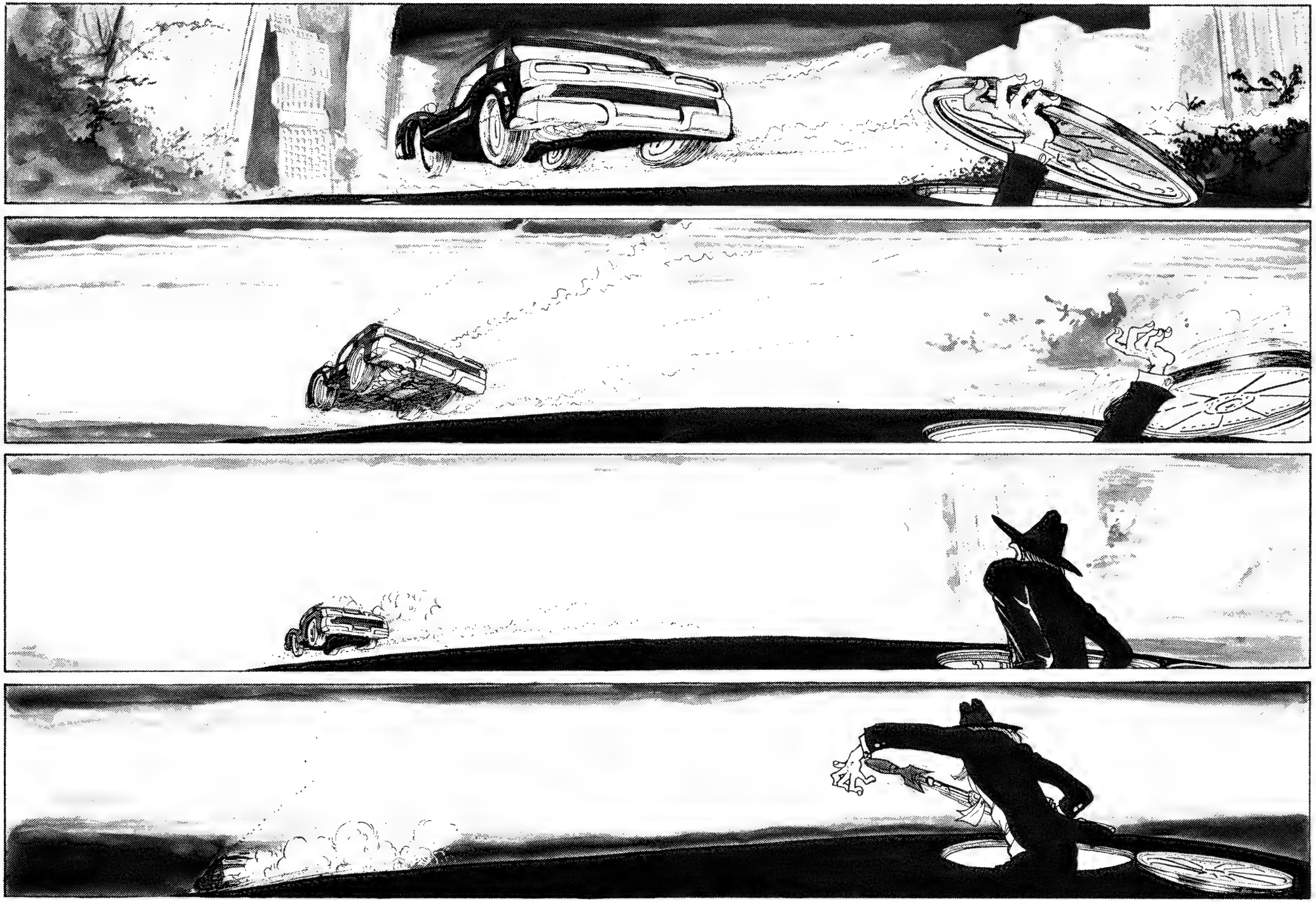
The Great Mouse

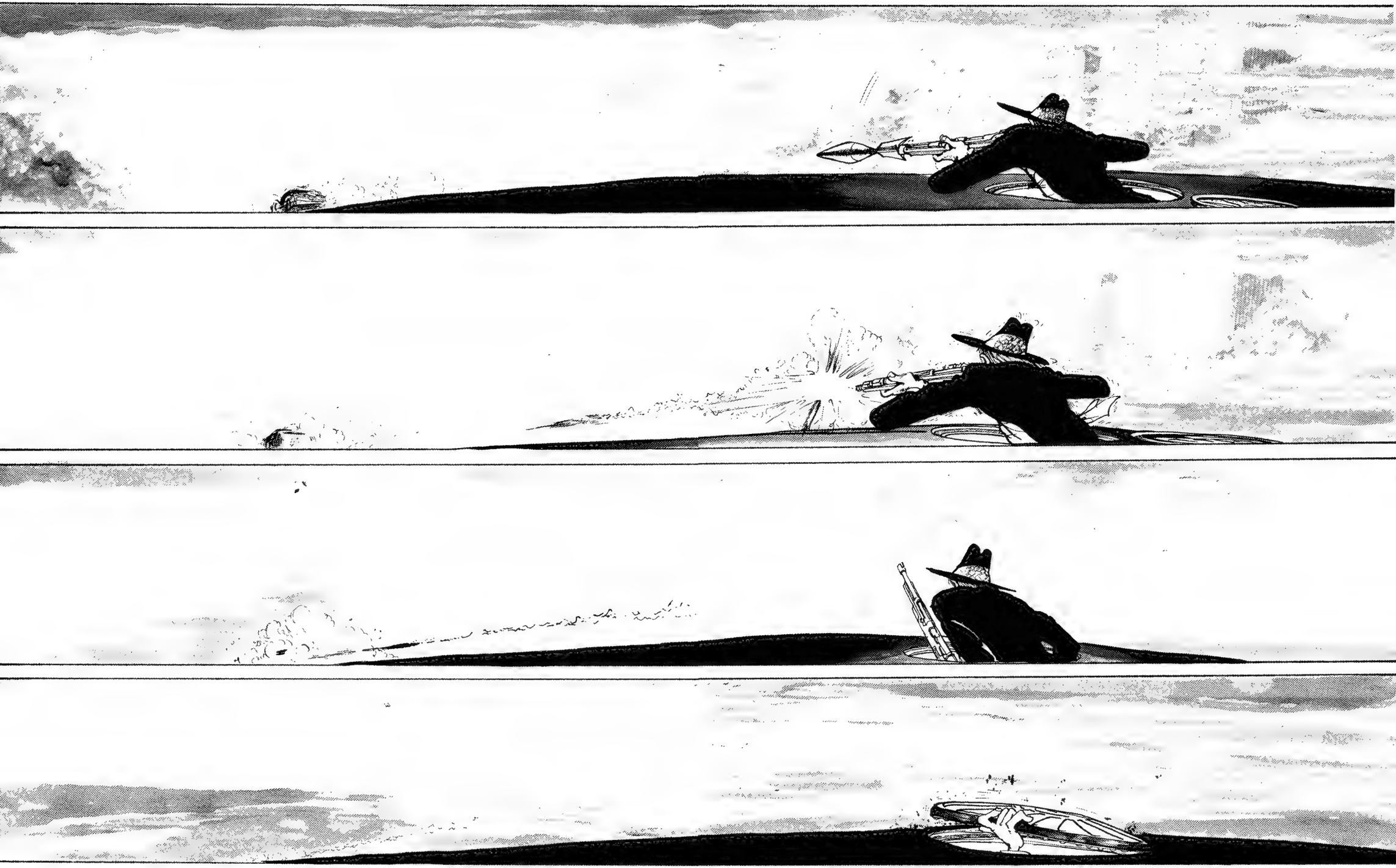


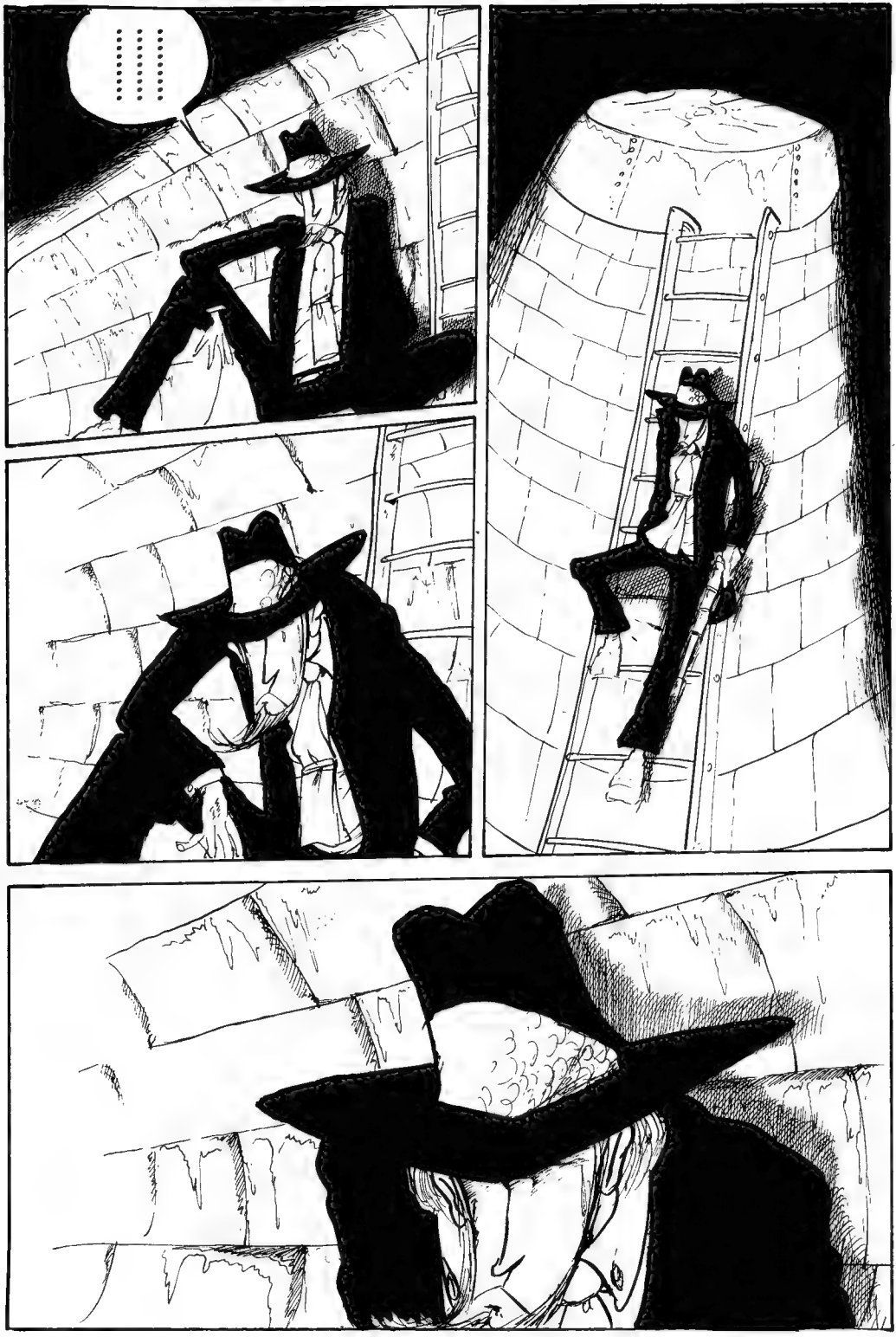








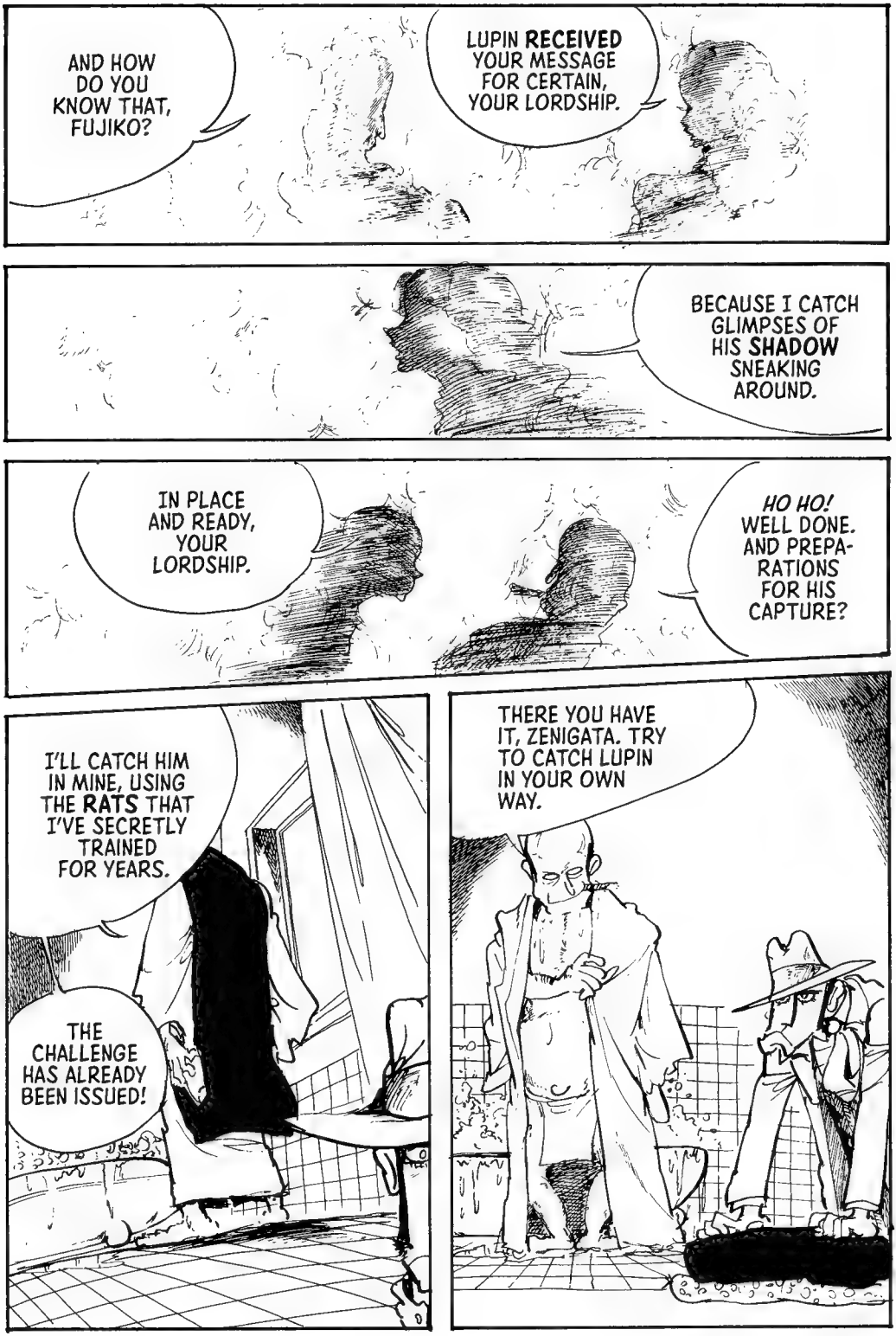




SEVERAL
WEEKS
EARLIER...
FWAP

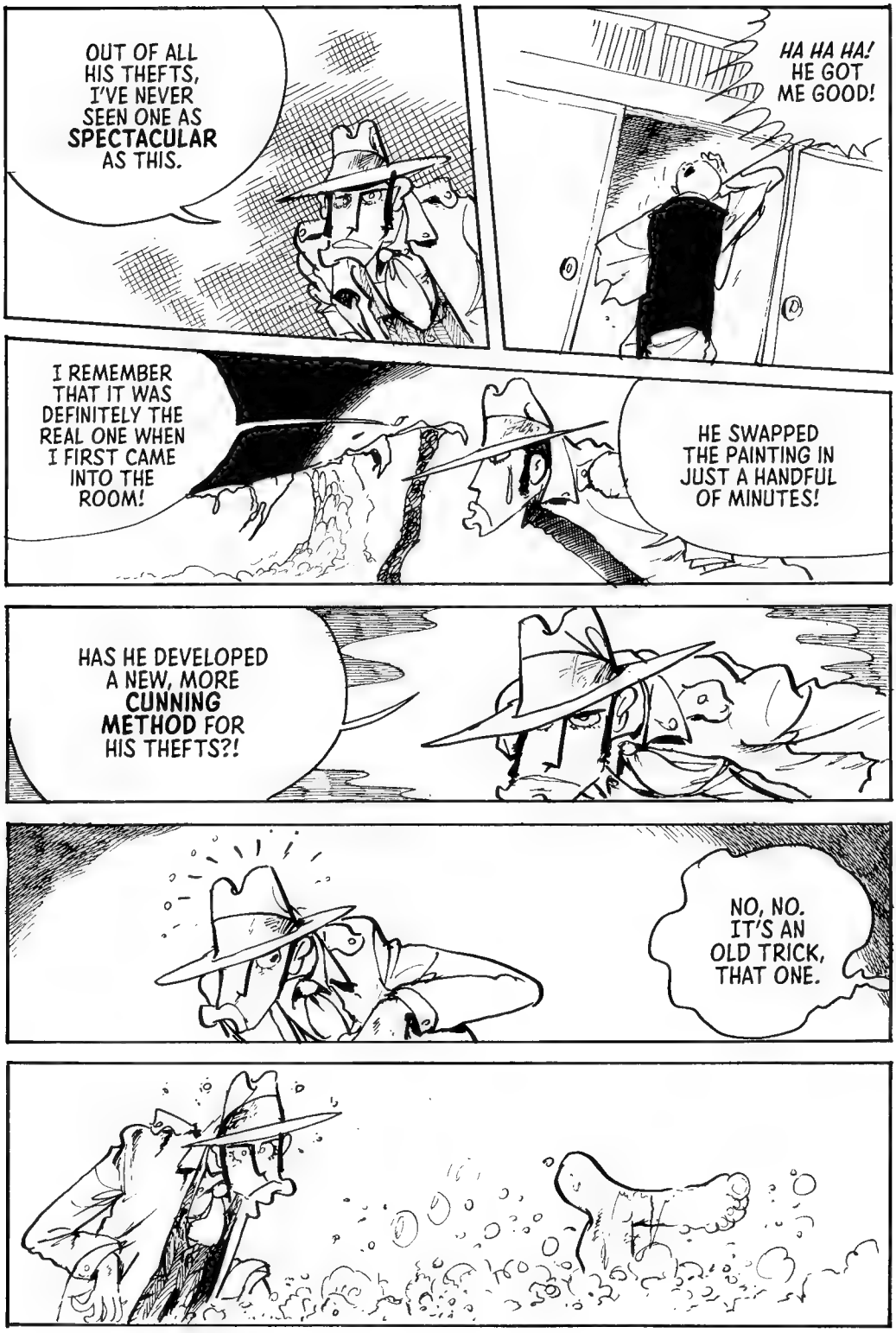
BOUNTIES & REWARDS
Reward:
3,000,000円
To be paid in cash to anyone who can protect this famous painting from thieves for one full day.
—Issho Narigane
I'M DISAPPOINTED YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH IN THE POLICE.
UNFORTUNATE, LORD NARIGANE. VERY UNFORTUNATE!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
IF YOU WANT THAT PAINTING SAFE, COME TO US! I'M SHOCKED THAT YOU WOULD THINK SO LITTLE OF JAPAN'S POLICE FORCE!
NOW, NOW. DON'T GET YOUR FEATHERS RUFFLED, ZENIGATA. I PUBLISHED THAT ADVERT AS A CHALLENGE...!

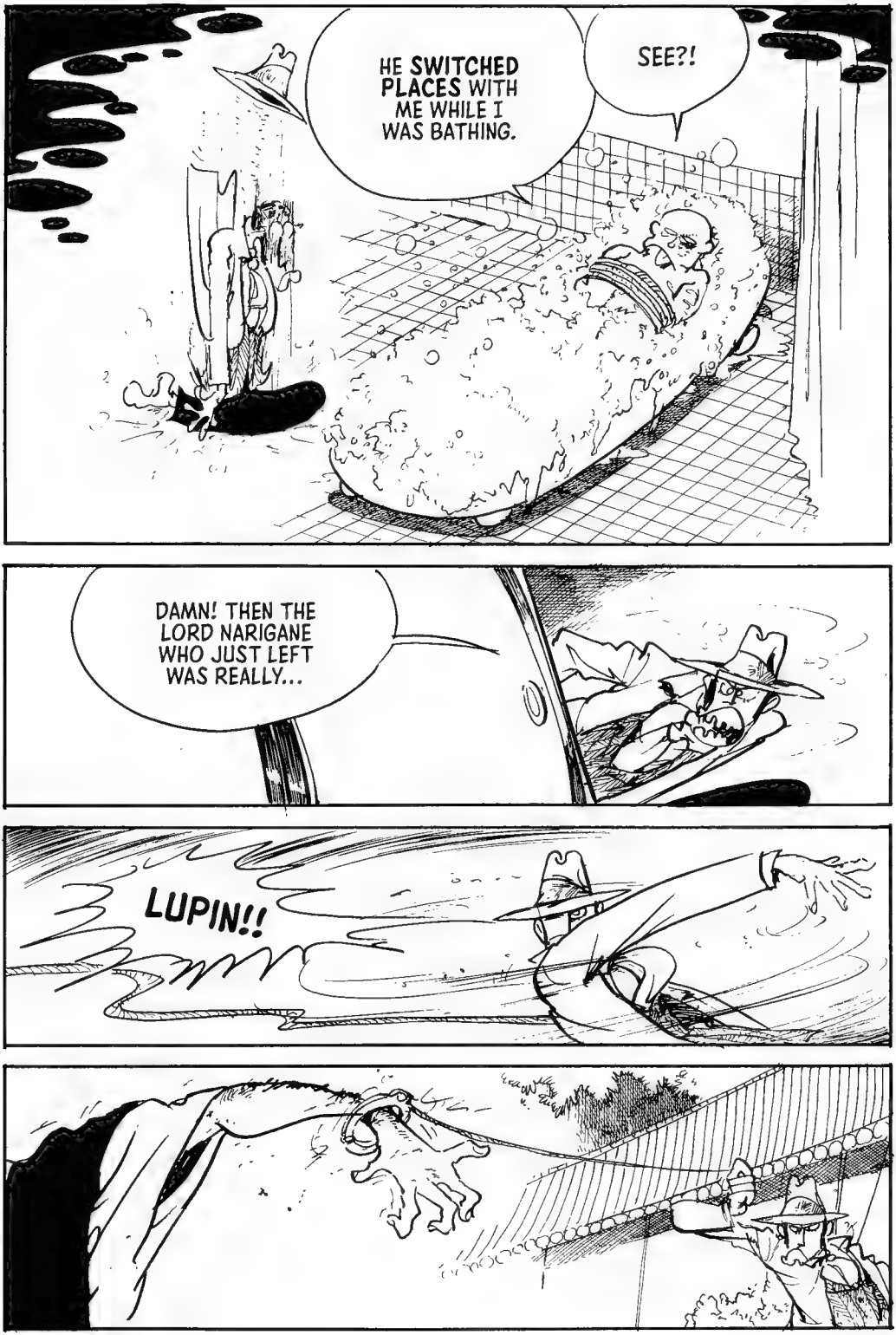
CAN'T YOU GUESS?
TO WHOM, SIR?!
A CHAL-LENGE?!
LUPIN THE THIRD!
THAT'S INSANE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND LUPIN, MILORD!
I CHALLENGED HIM TO TRY AND STEAL THAT PAINTING FROM ME BY MIDNIGHT IN THREE DAYS' TIME.
I CAN'T SAY! I SUPPOSE WE'LL KNOW IN THREE DAYS' TIME.
DID YOUR CHALLENGE EVEN REACH HIM?!


AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, FUJIKO?
LUPIN **RECEIVED** YOUR MESSAGE FOR CERTAIN, YOUR LORDSHIP.
BECAUSE I CATCH GLIMPSES OF HIS **SHADOW** SNEAKING AROUND.
IN PLACE AND READY, YOUR LORDSHIP.
HO HO! WELL DONE. AND PREPA-RATIONS FOR HIS CAPTURE?
I'LL CATCH HIM IN MINE, USING THE **RATS** THAT I'VE SECRETLY TRAINED FOR YEARS.
THE CHALLENGE HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED!
THERE YOU HAVE IT, ZENIGATA. TRY TO CATCH LUPIN IN YOUR OWN WAY.

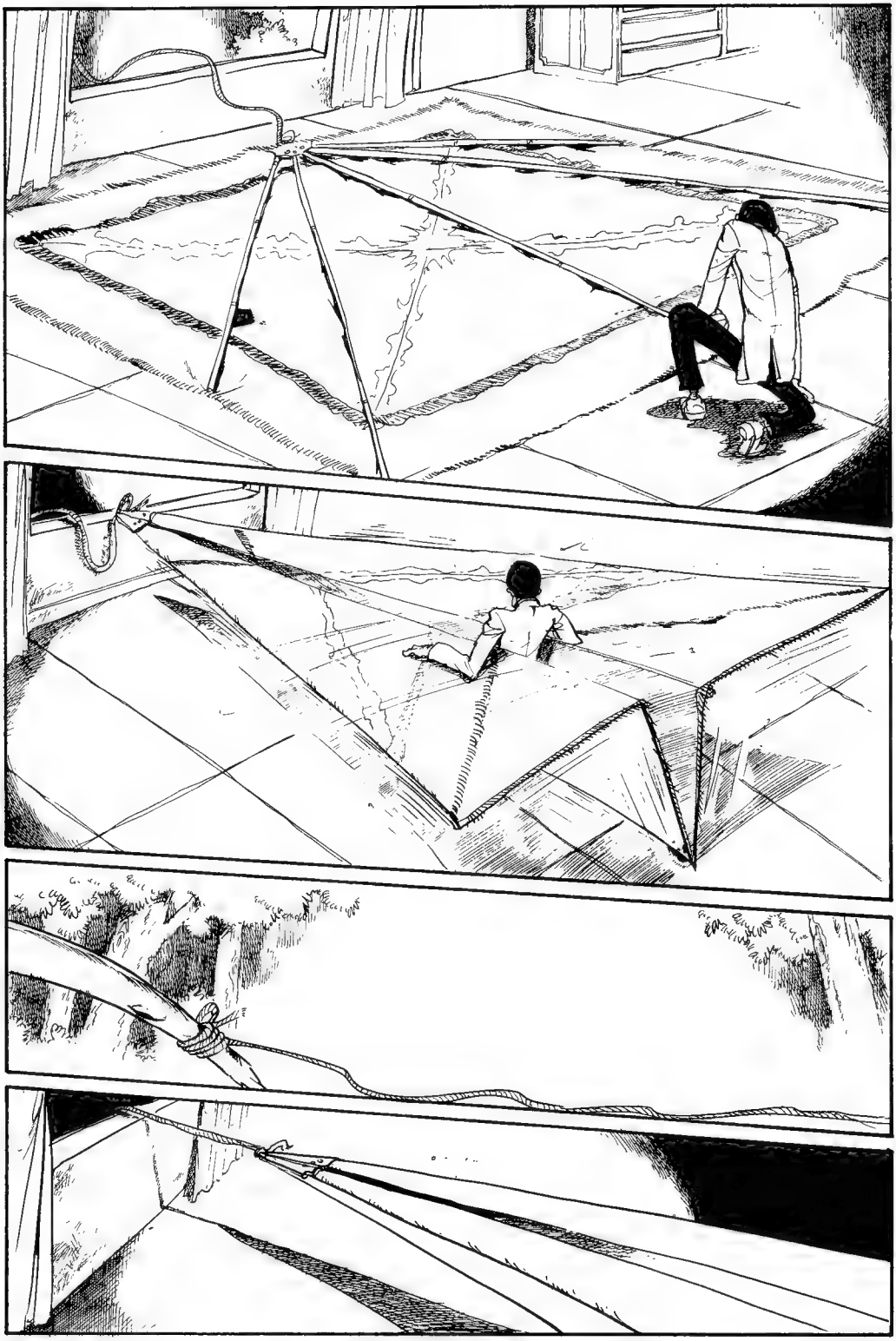
AND I *DO* MEAN RATS.
I'M AFRAID LUPIN HAS ALREADY BEATEN YOU!
LORD NARIGANE, WAIT!
PARDON ME!!

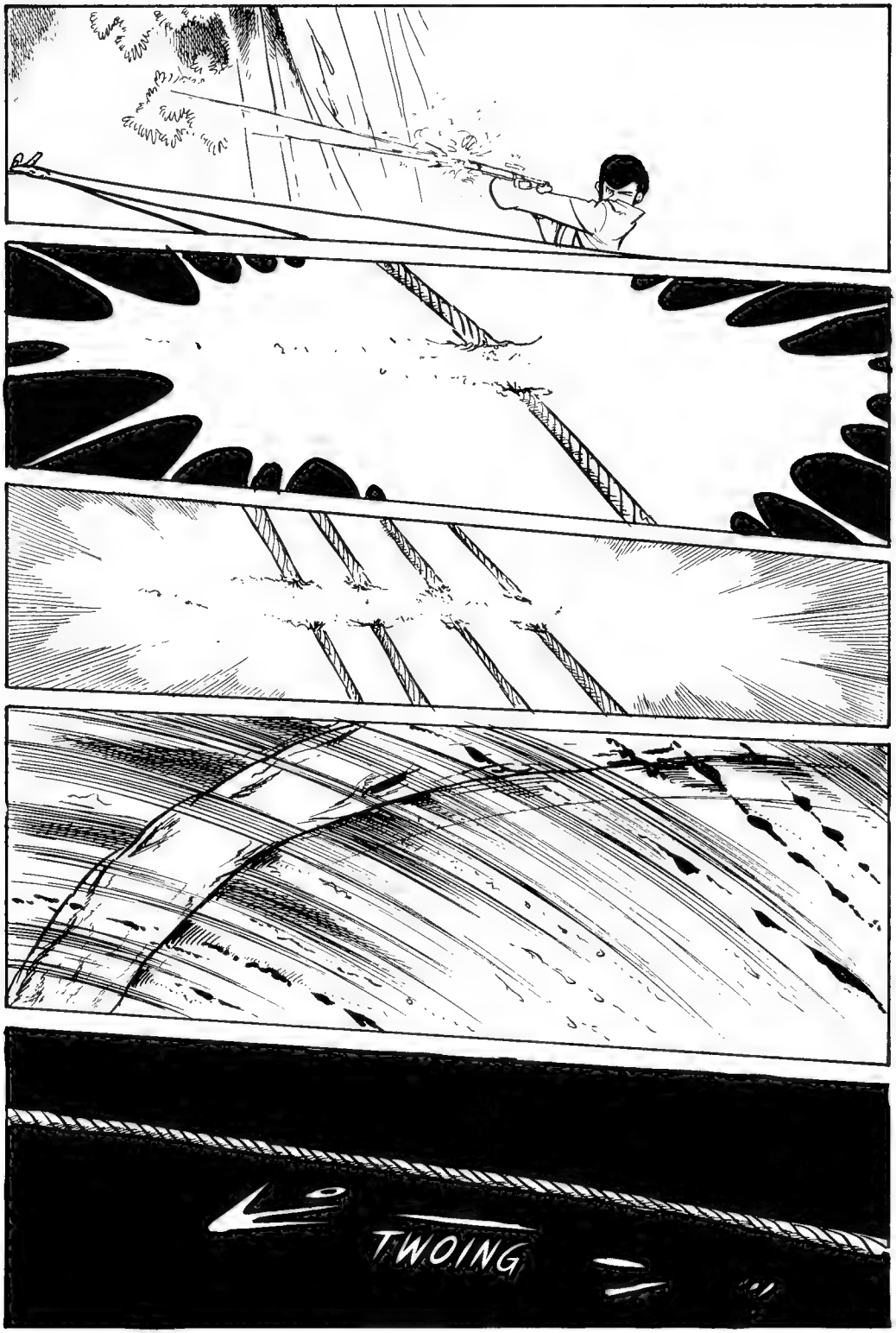
HE GOT ME...!
!!
SEE? YOUR PAINTING HAS ALREADY BEEN SWAPPED FOR A FORGERY.

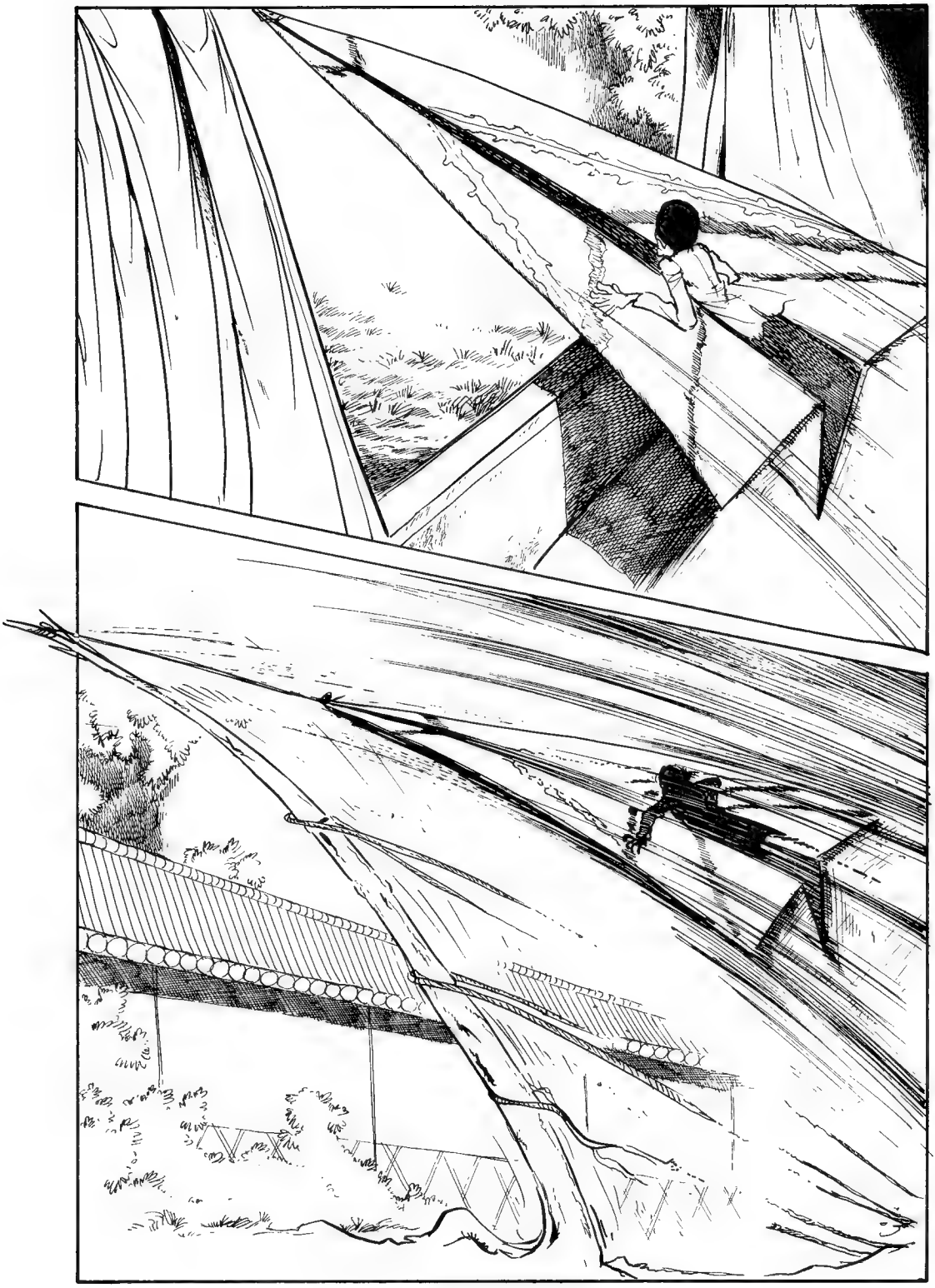

OUT OF ALL HIS THEFTS, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE AS SPECTACULAR AS THIS.
HA HA HA! HE GOT ME GOOD!
I REMEMBER THAT IT WAS DEFINITELY THE REAL ONE WHEN I FIRST CAME INTO THE ROOM!
HE SWAPPED THE PAINTING IN JUST A HANDFUL OF MINUTES!
HAS HE DEVELOPED A NEW, MORE CUNNING METHOD FOR HIS THEFTS?!
NO, NO. IT'S AN OLD TRICK, THAT ONE.


HE SWITCHED PLACES WITH ME WHILE I WAS BATHING.
SEE?!
DAMN! THEN THE LORD NARIGANE WHO JUST LEFT WAS REALLY...
LUPIN!!

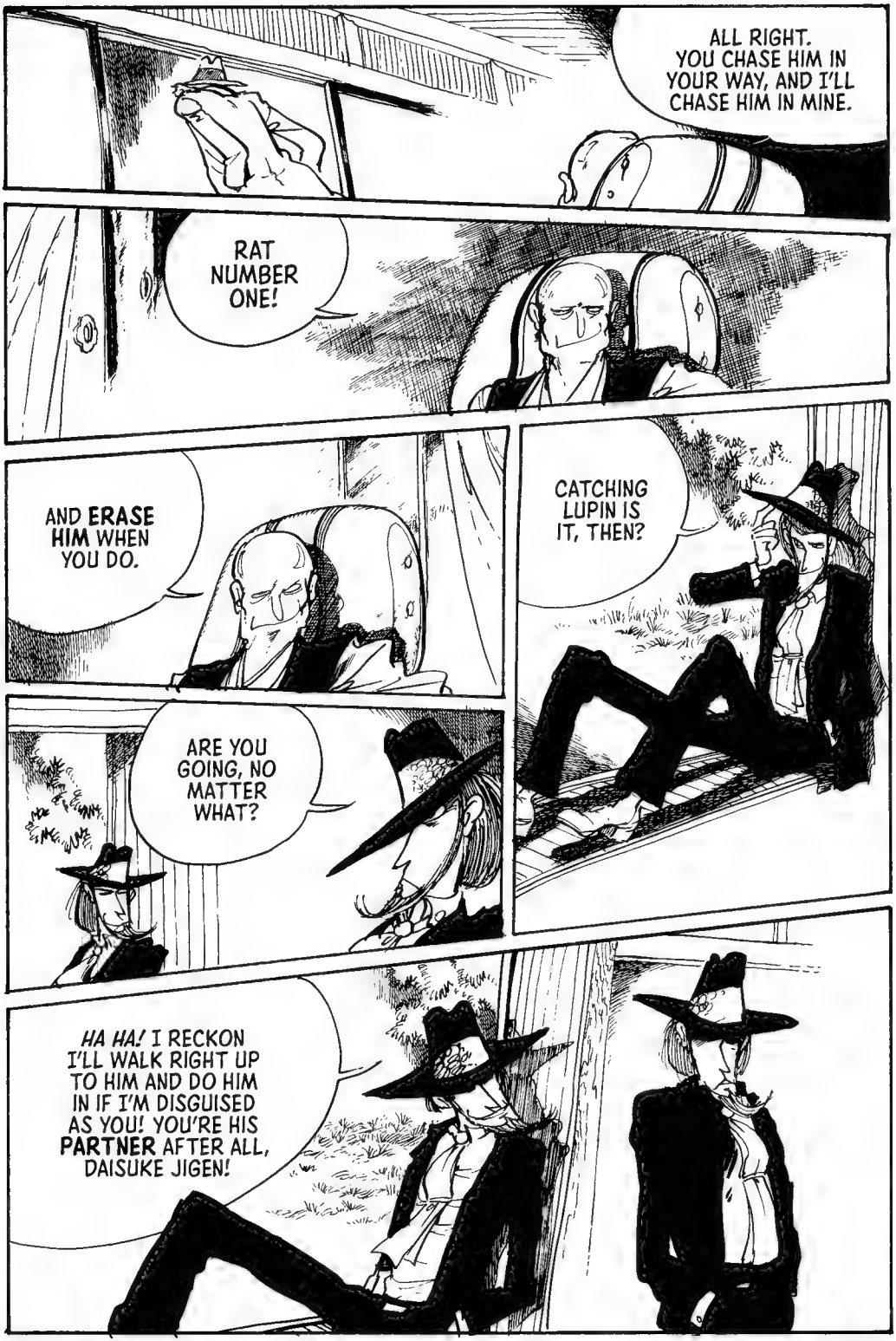
ZENIGATA! HAVE YOU GONE MAD?! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!



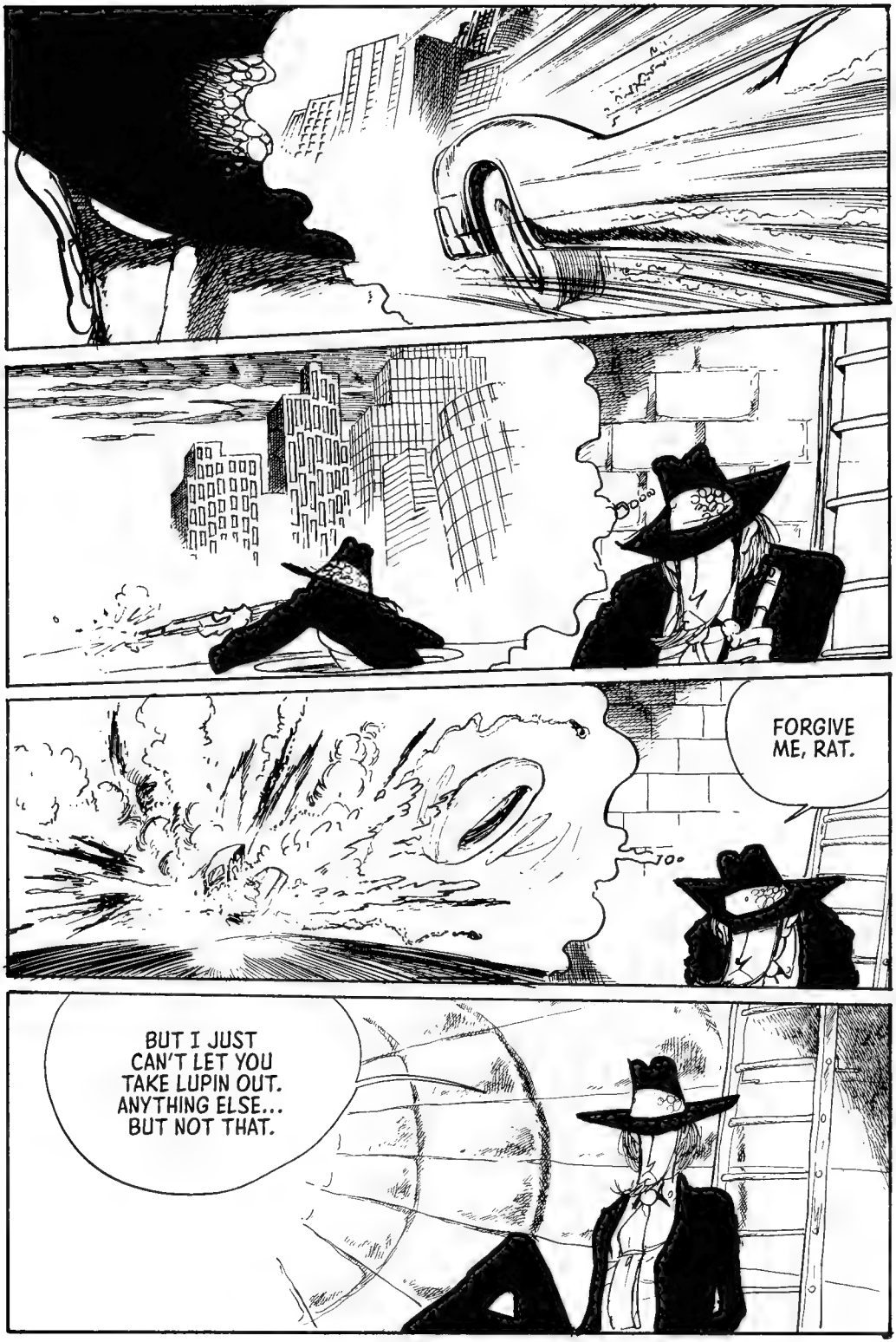

TWOING

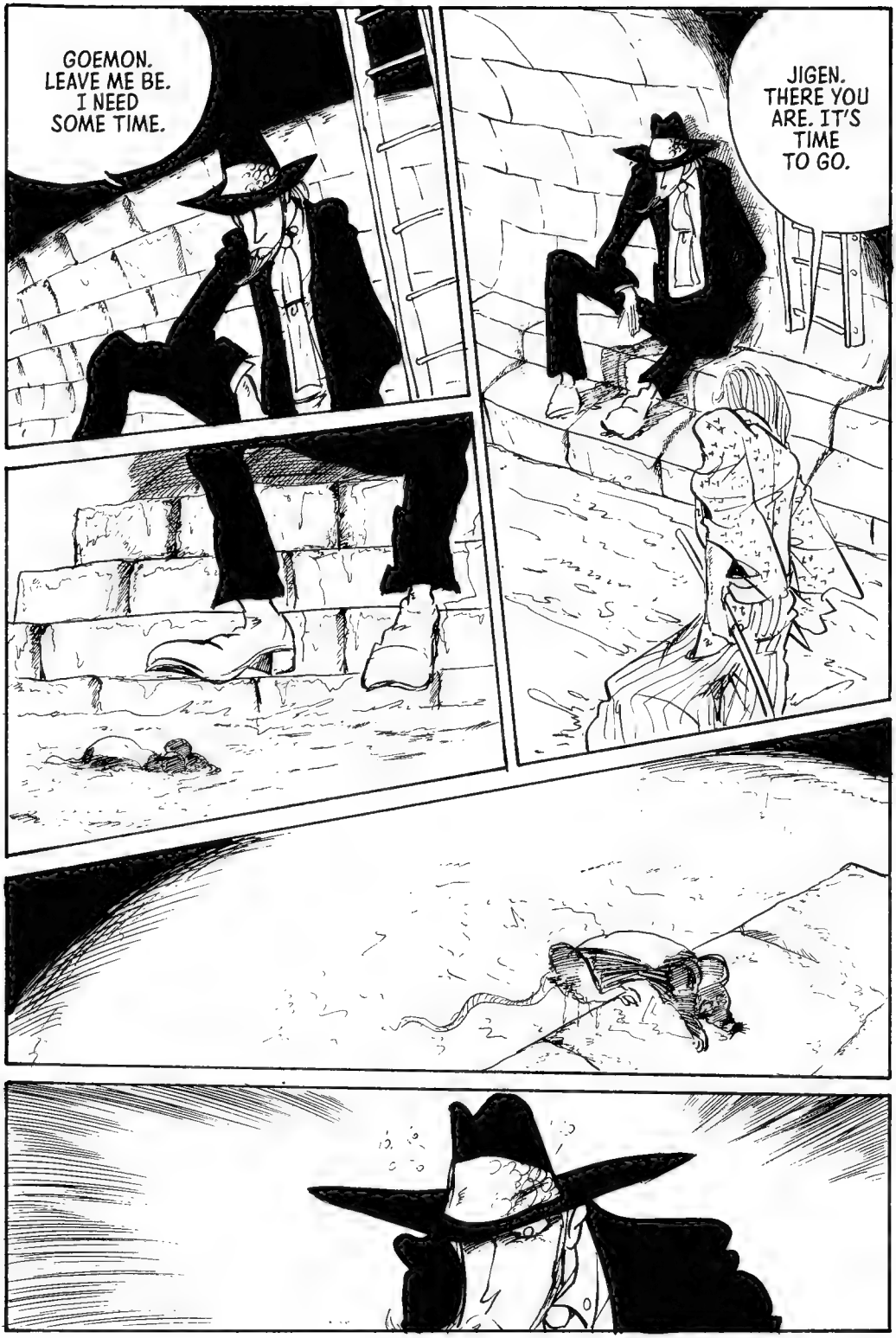


I HID A TV CAMERA HERE, AND VIDEO RECORDED THE THEFT.
LUPIN HID THE TRUE PAINTING UNDER THE CARPET, USING THE STEAM FROM MY BATH AS COVER. QUICK TRICK, THAT.
I AM FATED TO ALWAYS CHASE HIM.
AFTER LUPIN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


ALL RIGHT. YOU CHASE HIM IN YOUR WAY, AND I'LL CHASE HIM IN MINE.
RAT NUMBER ONE!
AND **ERASE HIM** WHEN YOU DO.
CATCHING LUPIN IS IT, THEN?
ARE YOU GOING, NO MATTER WHAT?
HA HA! I RECKON I'LL WALK RIGHT UP TO HIM AND DO HIM IN IF I'M DISGUISED AS YOU! YOU'RE HIS **PARTNER** AFTER ALL, DAISUKE JIGEN!

NOW I'M CALLING THAT **FAVOR** IN, JIGEN.
DON'T FORGET HOW I SAVED YOUR LIFE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
I'LL PAY YOU WHAT I OWE IN SOME OTHER WAY, SOME OTHER DAY.
COULD'JA MAYBE *NOT* OFF LUPIN?
C'MON, RAT.
ALL I'M GONNA DO IS EXACTLY WHAT *YOU* DID!
WHAT, DID YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW? I **LET** IT HAPPEN. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEAT HIM OTHERWISE.
NO CAN DO. YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS ME AND ERASED MY PARTNER NOT TOO LONG AGO.

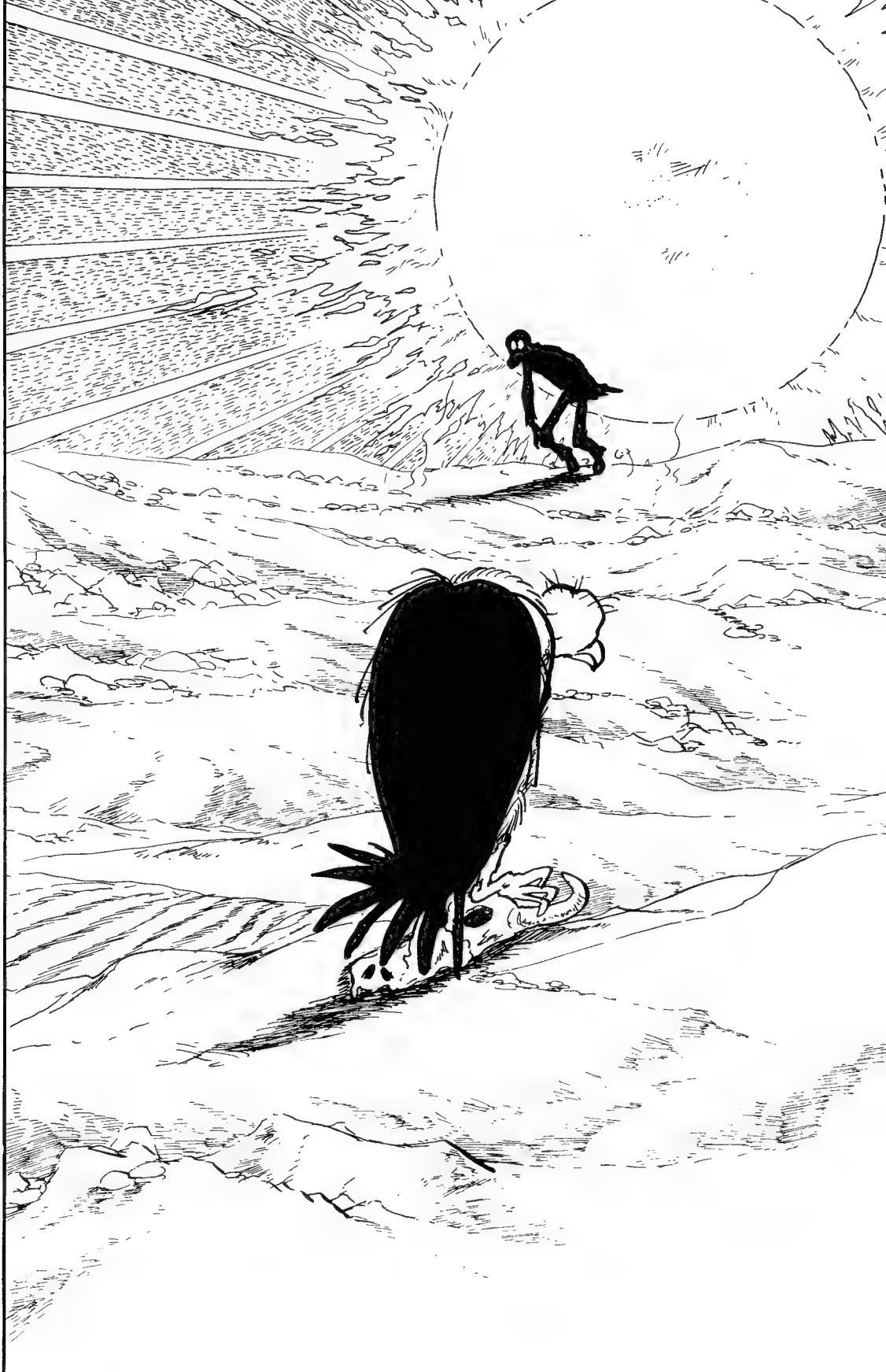

FORGIVE ME, RAT.
BUT I JUST CAN'T LET YOU TAKE LUPIN OUT. ANYTHING ELSE... BUT NOT THAT.


GOEMON. LEAVE ME BE. I NEED SOME TIME.
JIGEN. THERE YOU ARE. IT'S TIME TO GO.

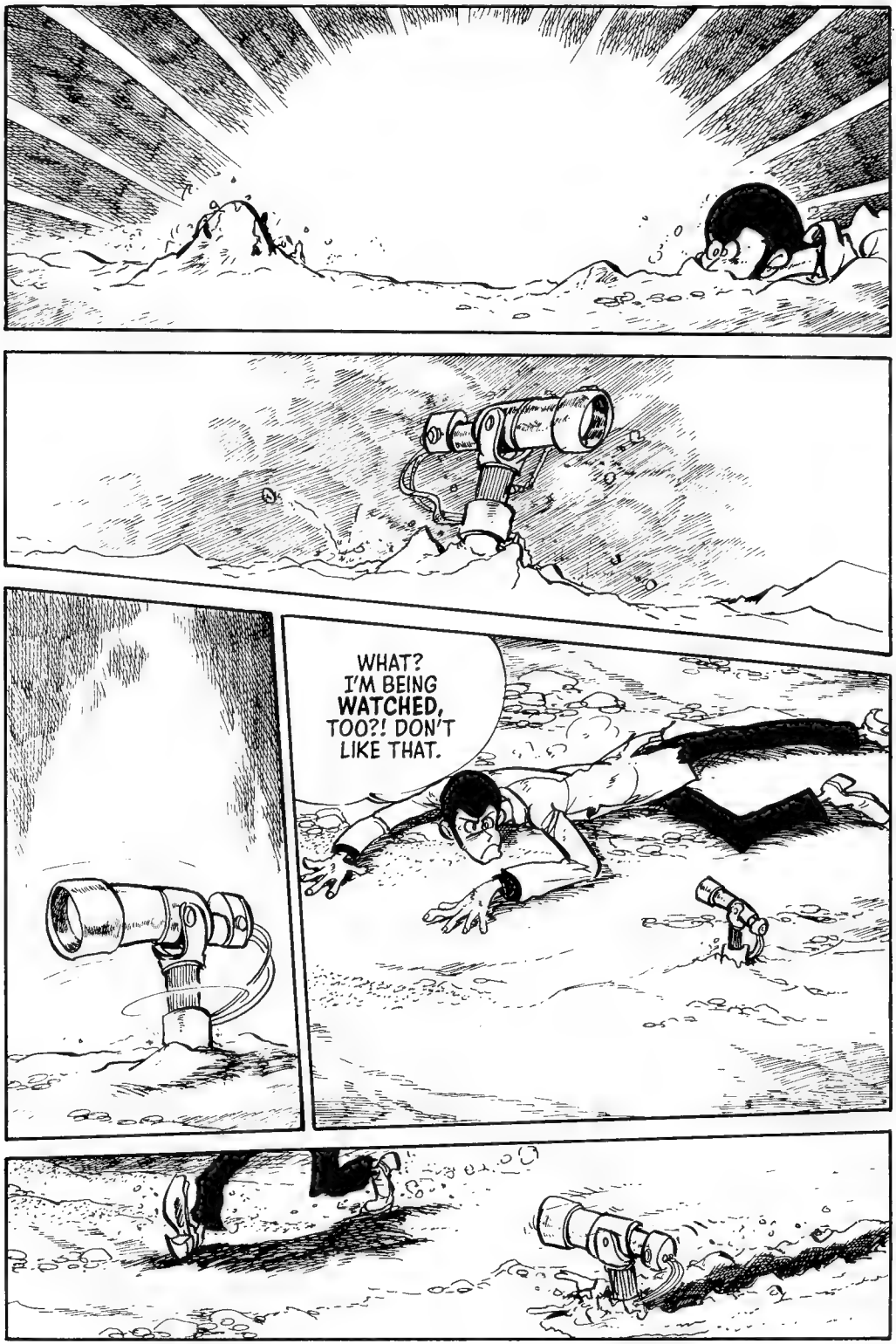
The Great Mouse / END

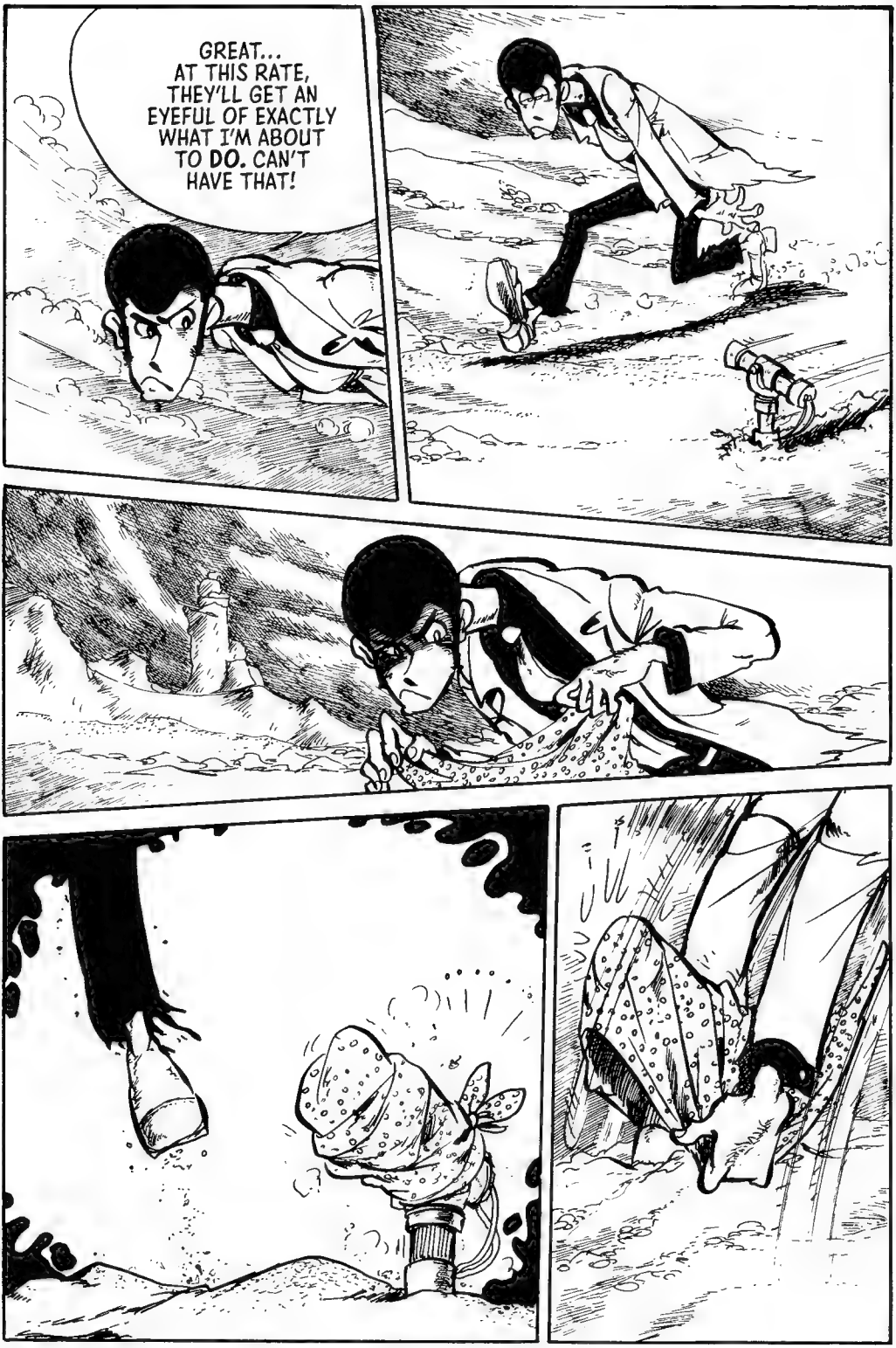
GOEMON ISHIKAWA

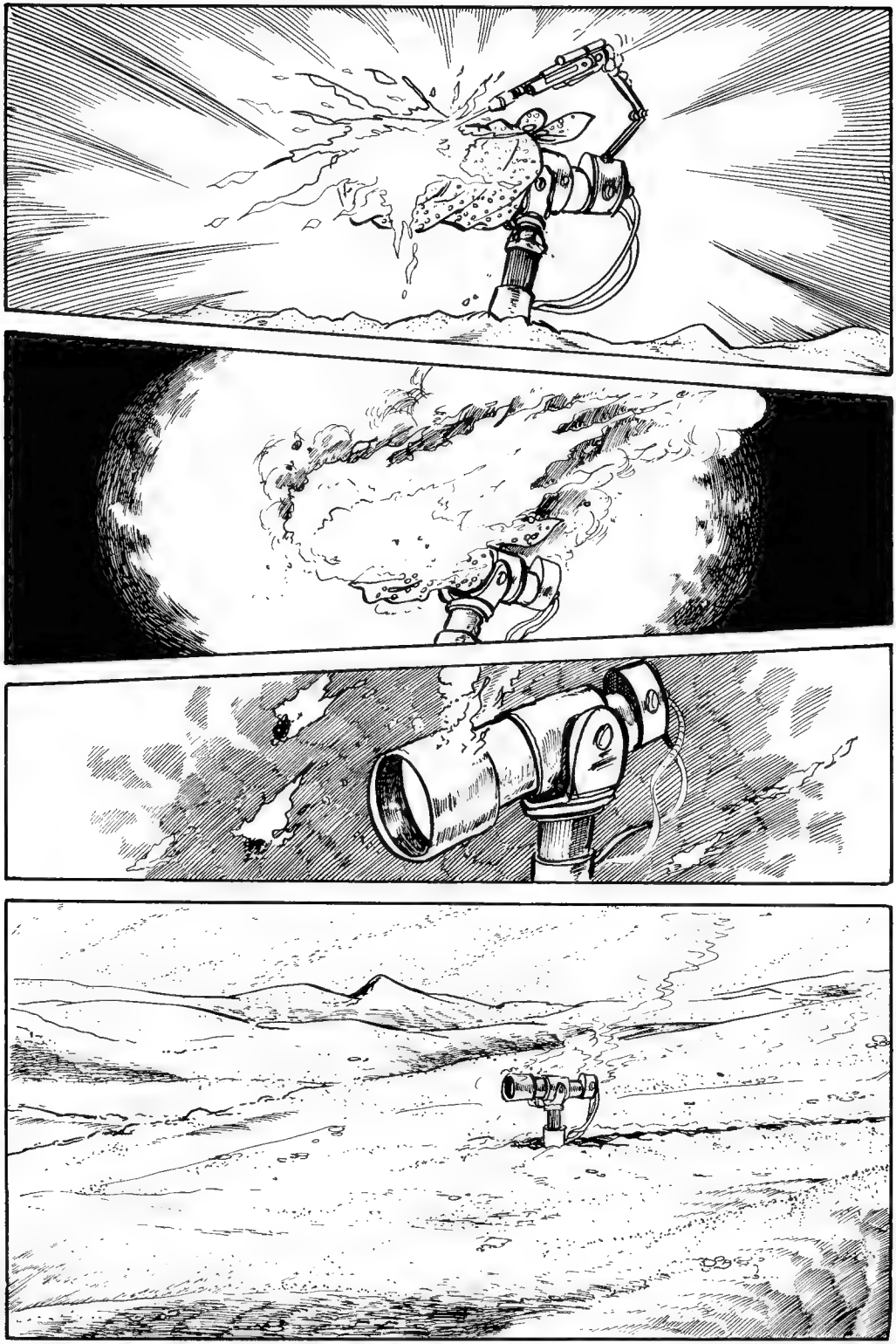
What Do You Think of This?

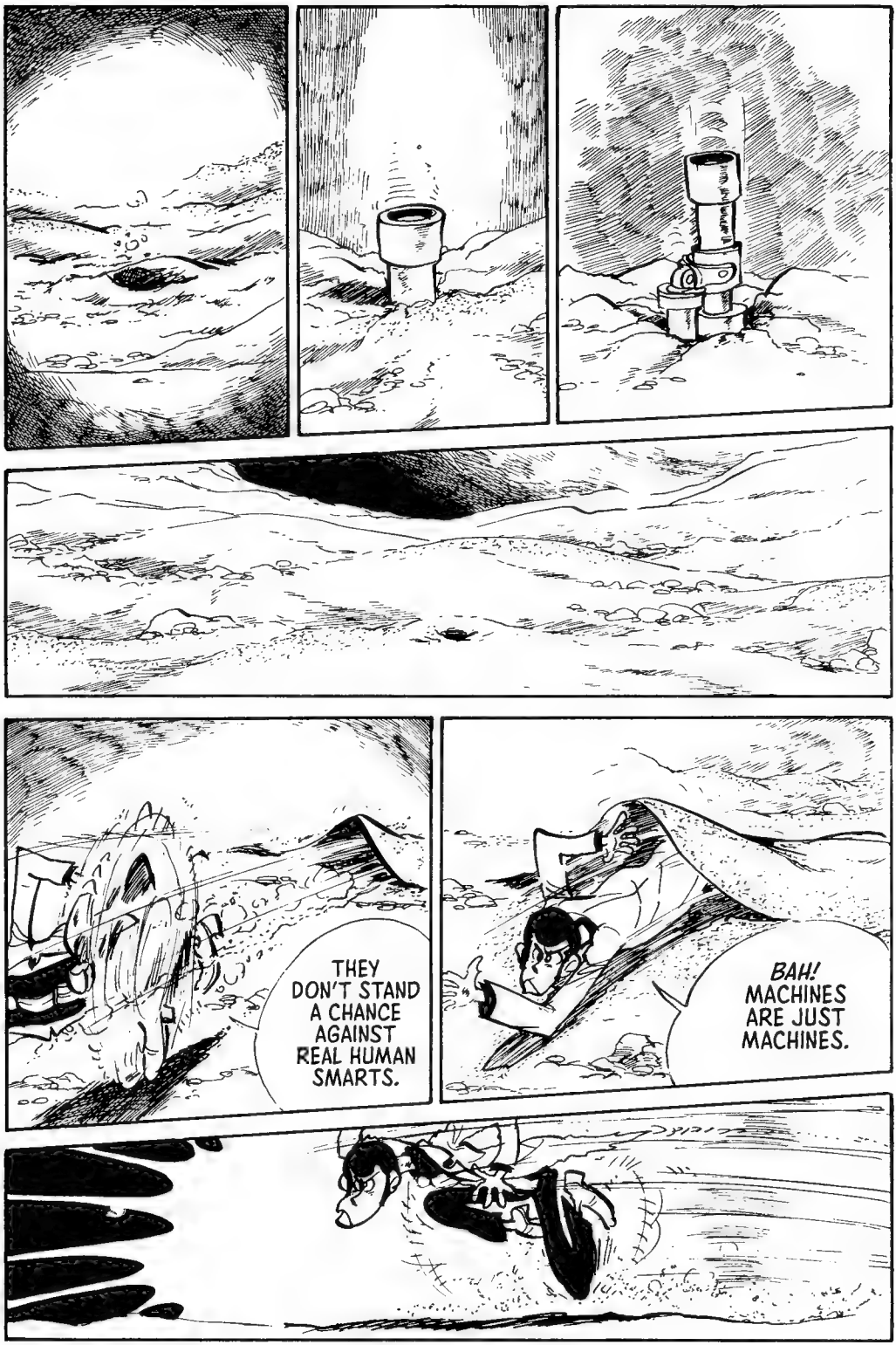


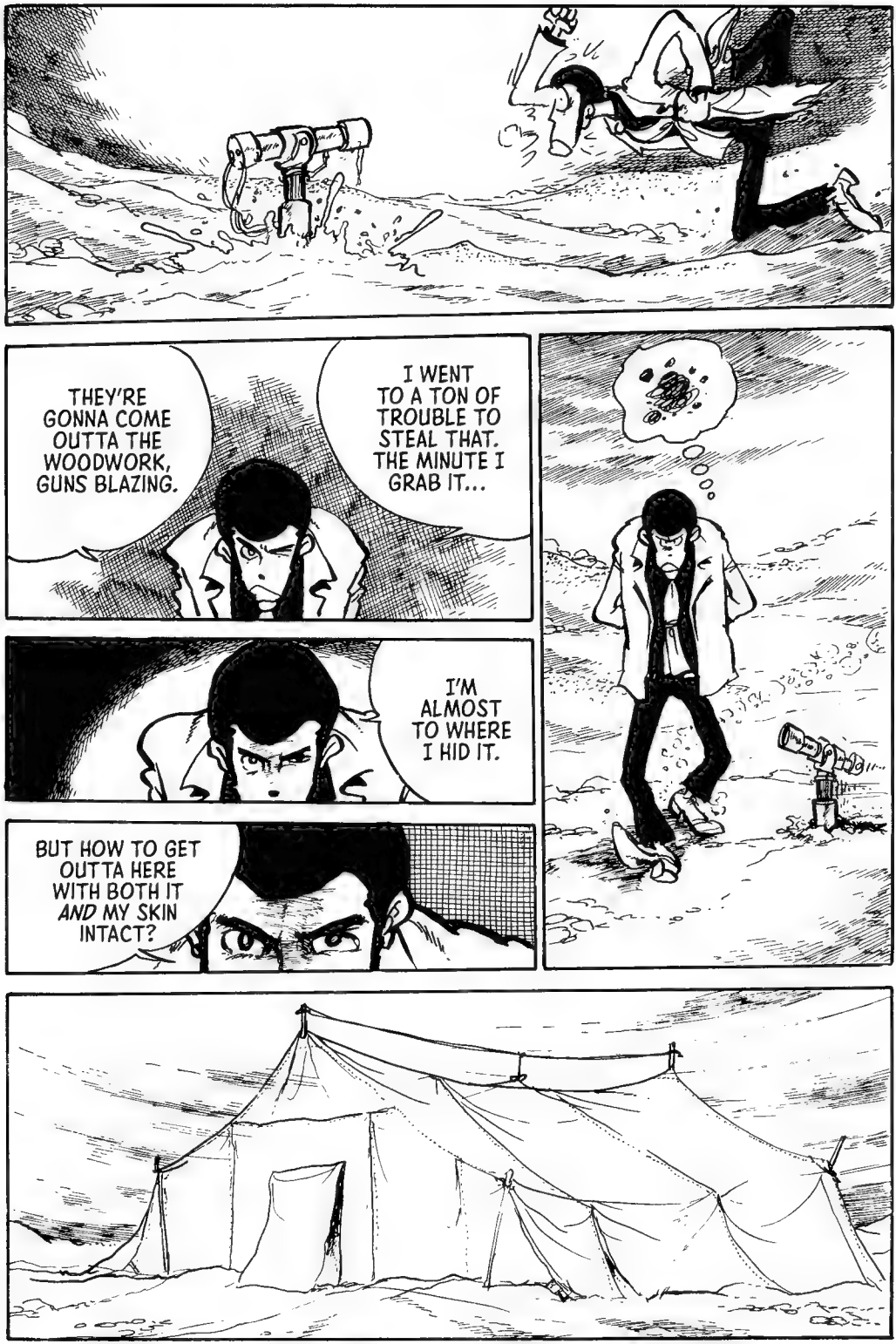
FWUMP

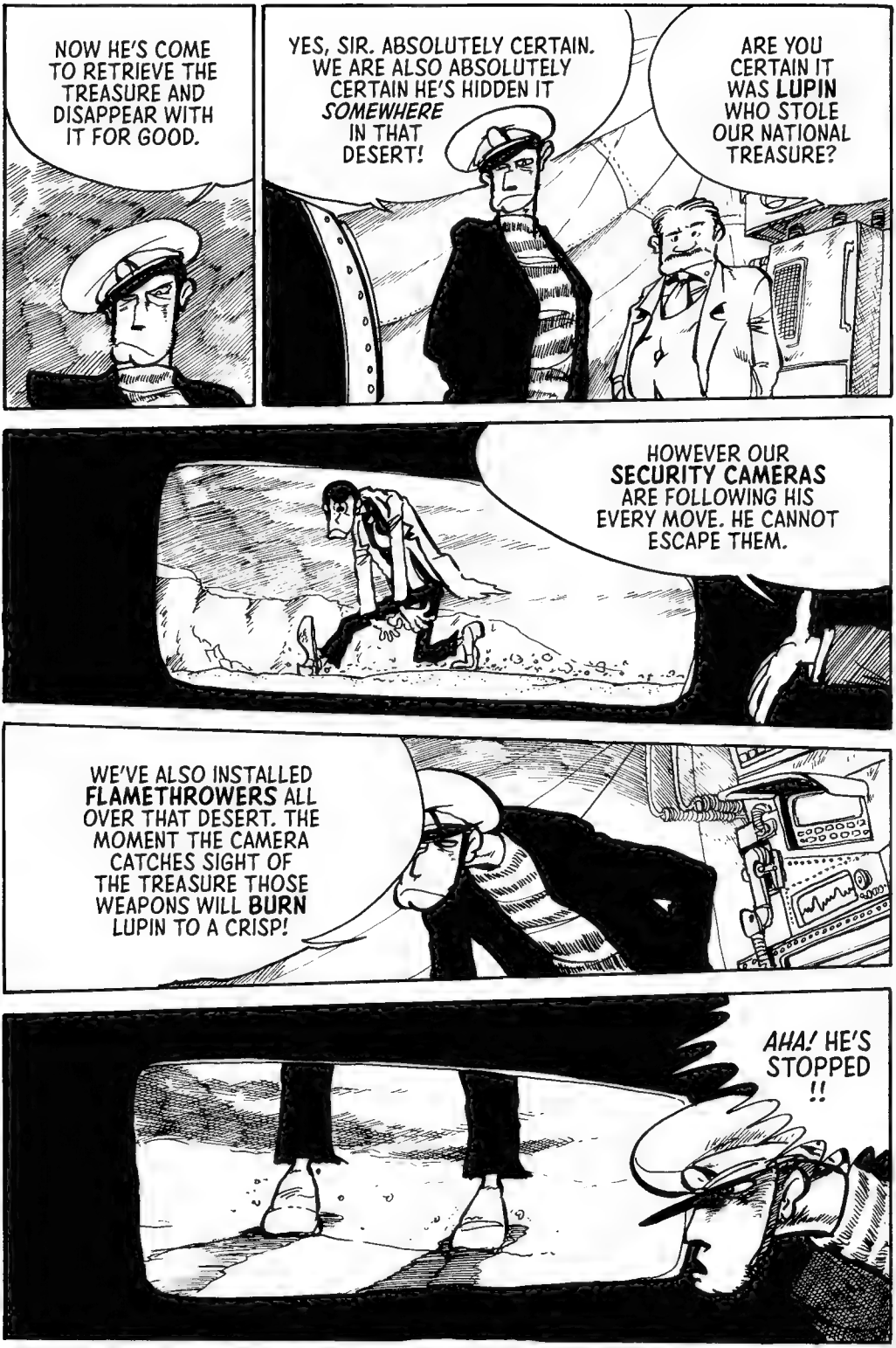

WHAT? I'M BEING WATCHED, TOO?! DON'T LIKE THAT.


GREAT... AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL GET AN EYEFUL OF EXACTLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO **DO.** CAN'T HAVE THAT!



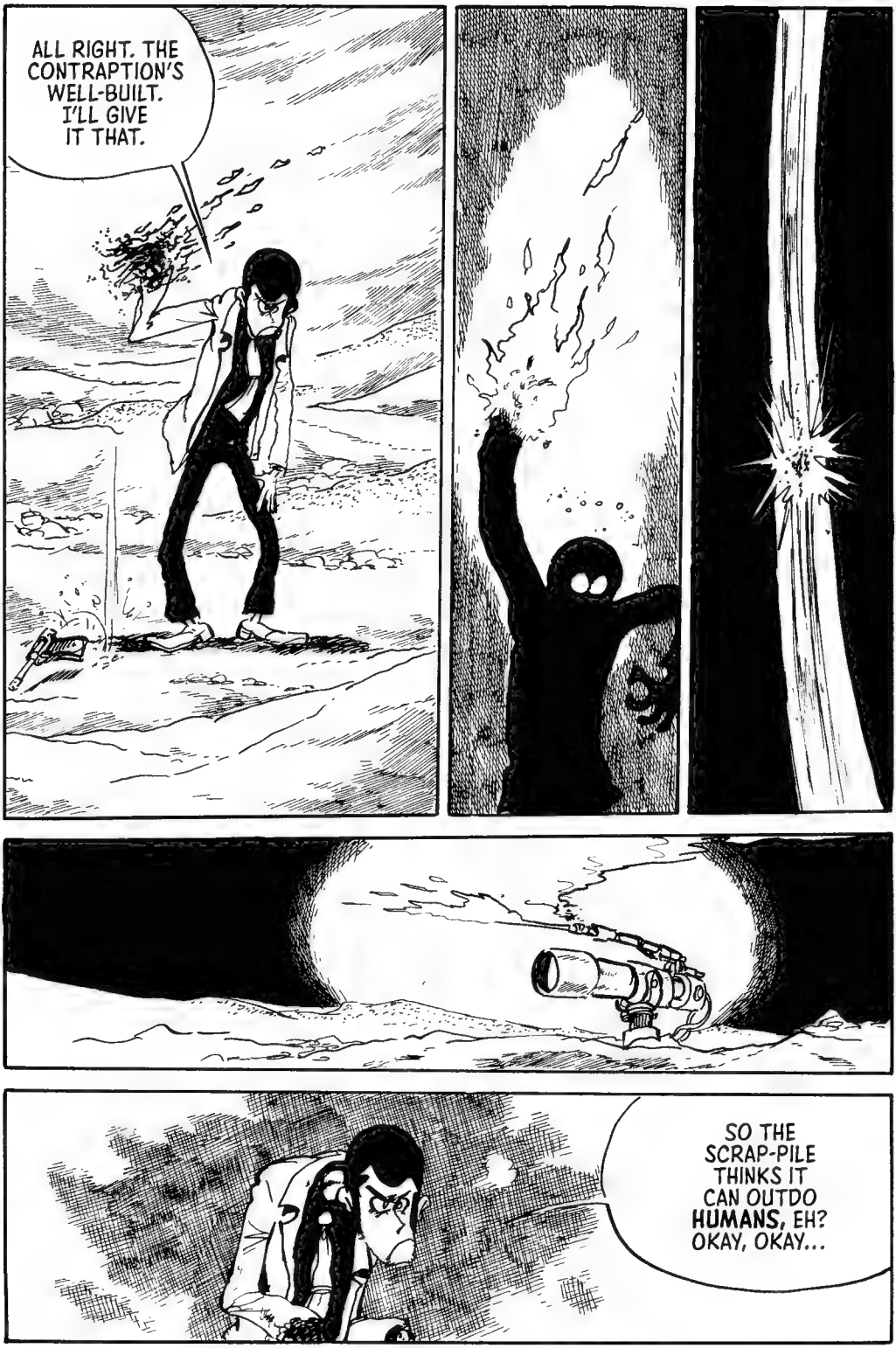

THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST REAL HUMAN SMARTS.
BAH! MACHINES ARE JUST MACHINES.

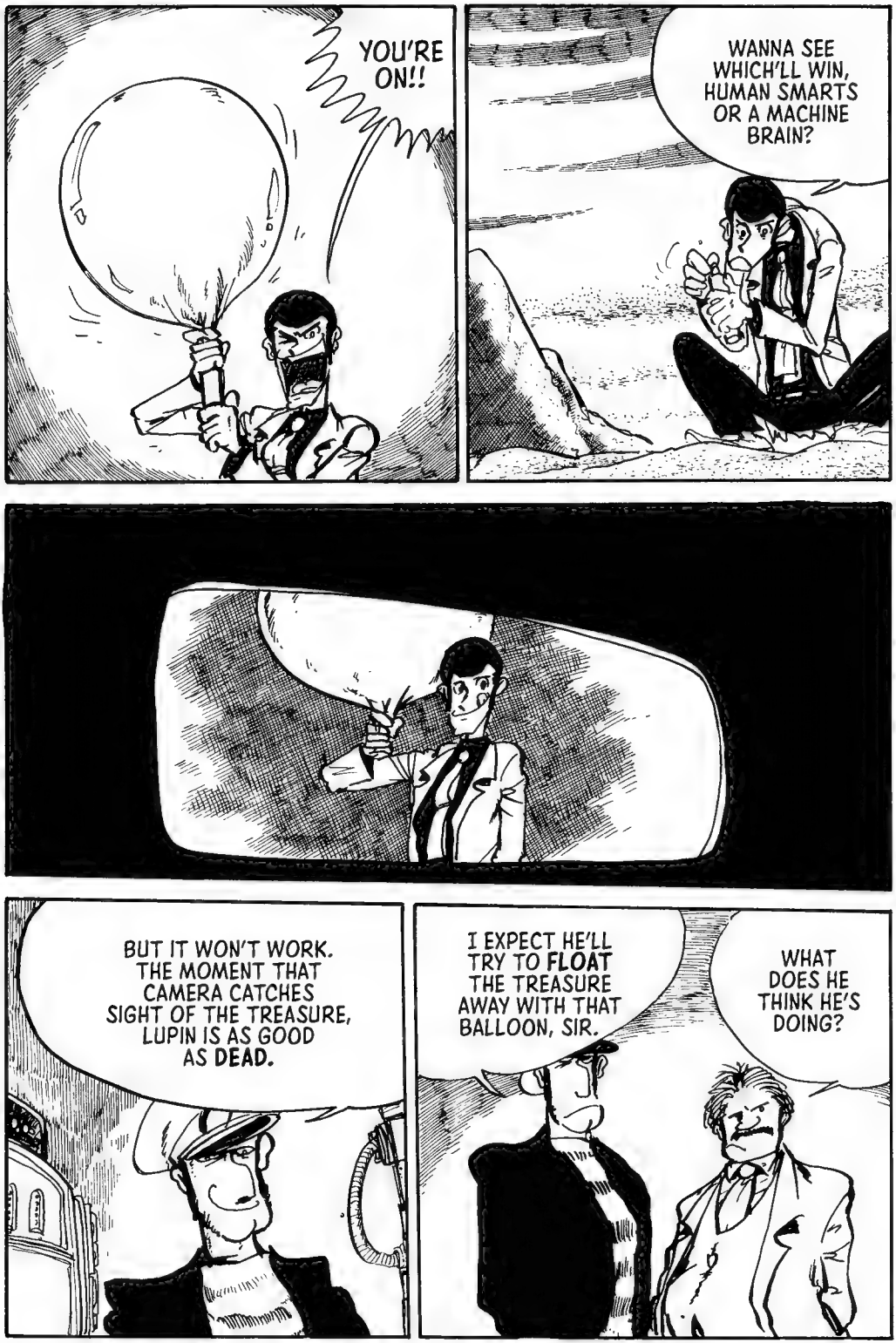

THEY'RE GONNA COME OUTTA THE WOODWORK, GUNS BLAZING.
I WENT TO A TON OF TROUBLE TO STEAL THAT. THE MINUTE I GRAB IT...
I'M ALMOST TO WHERE I HID IT.
BUT HOW TO GET OUTTA HERE WITH BOTH IT *AND* MY SKIN INTACT?


NOW HE'S COME TO RETRIEVE THE TREASURE AND DISAPPEAR WITH IT FOR GOOD.
YES, SIR. ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN. WE ARE ALSO ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN HE'S HIDDEN IT *SOMEWHERE* IN THAT DESERT!
ARE YOU CERTAIN IT WAS **LUPIN** WHO STOLE OUR NATIONAL TREASURE?
HOWEVER OUR **SECURITY CAMERAS** ARE FOLLOWING HIS EVERY MOVE. HE CANNOT ESCAPE THEM.
WE'VE ALSO INSTALLED **FLAMETHROWERS** ALL OVER THAT DESERT. THE MOMENT THE CAMERA CATCHES SIGHT OF THE TREASURE THOSE WEAPONS WILL **BURN** LUPIN TO A CRISP!
AHA! HE'S STOPPED !!

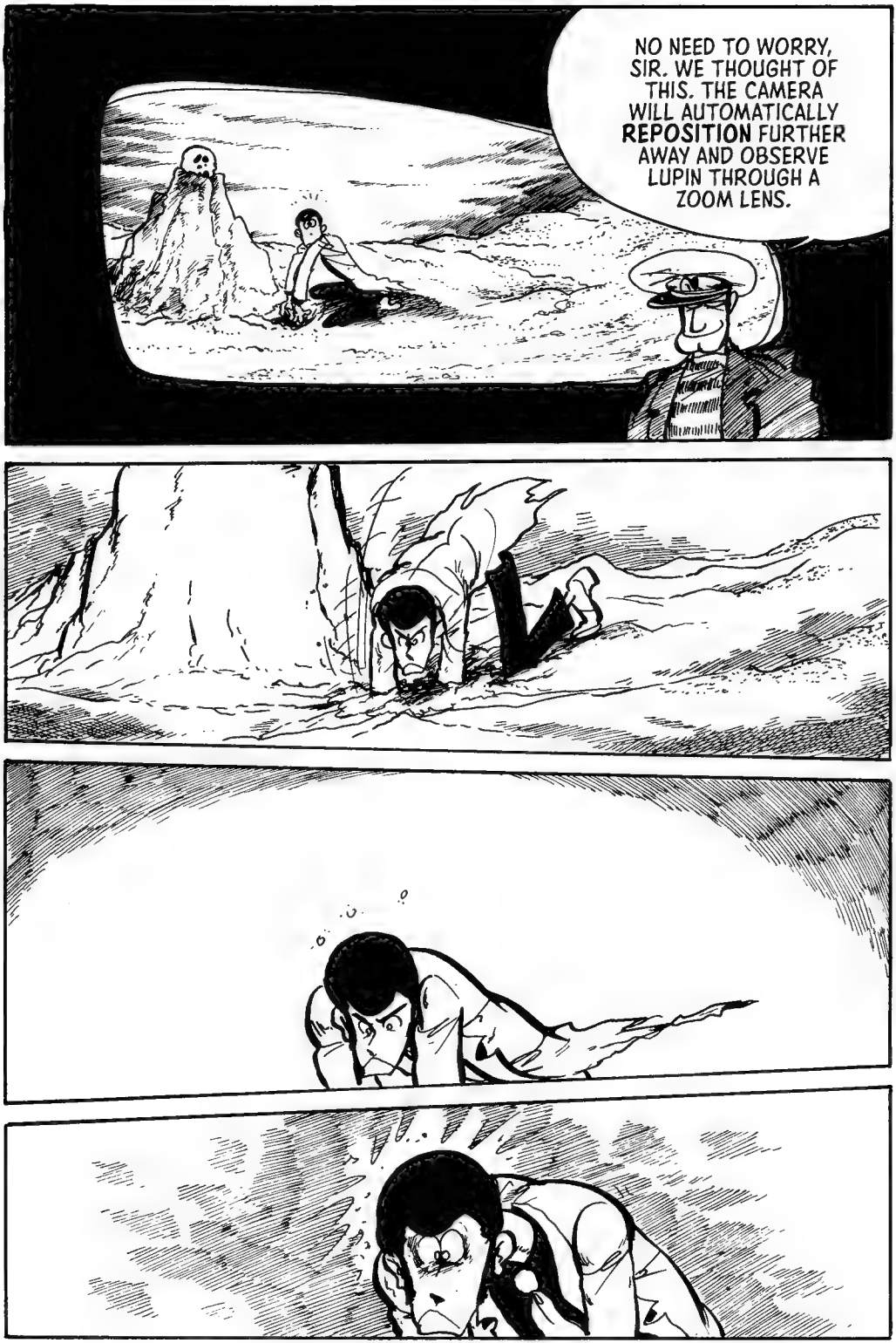
DAMNED CAMERA. THE THING FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY TO THE HIDING SPOT.
BUT I CAN'T GET TOO CLOSE WHILE I'M BEING WATCHED.
IT'S AT THE FOOT OF THAT ROCK...

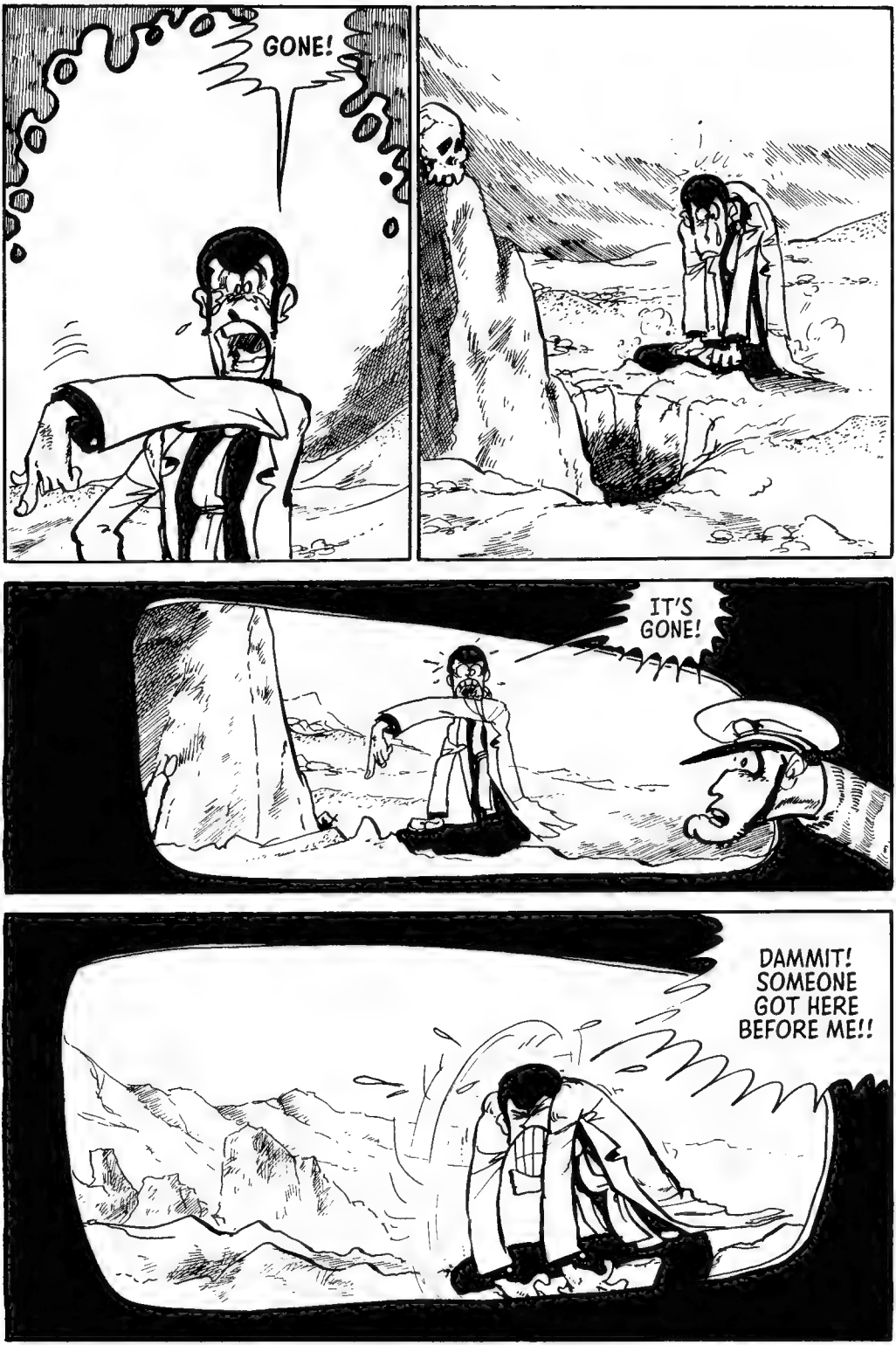
WAIT, NO! THE DAMN THING'LL PROBABLY STILL TRACK ME WITH INFRARED!
THIS IS THE ONLY OTHER WAY!!
GUESS I JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL IT GETS DARK...

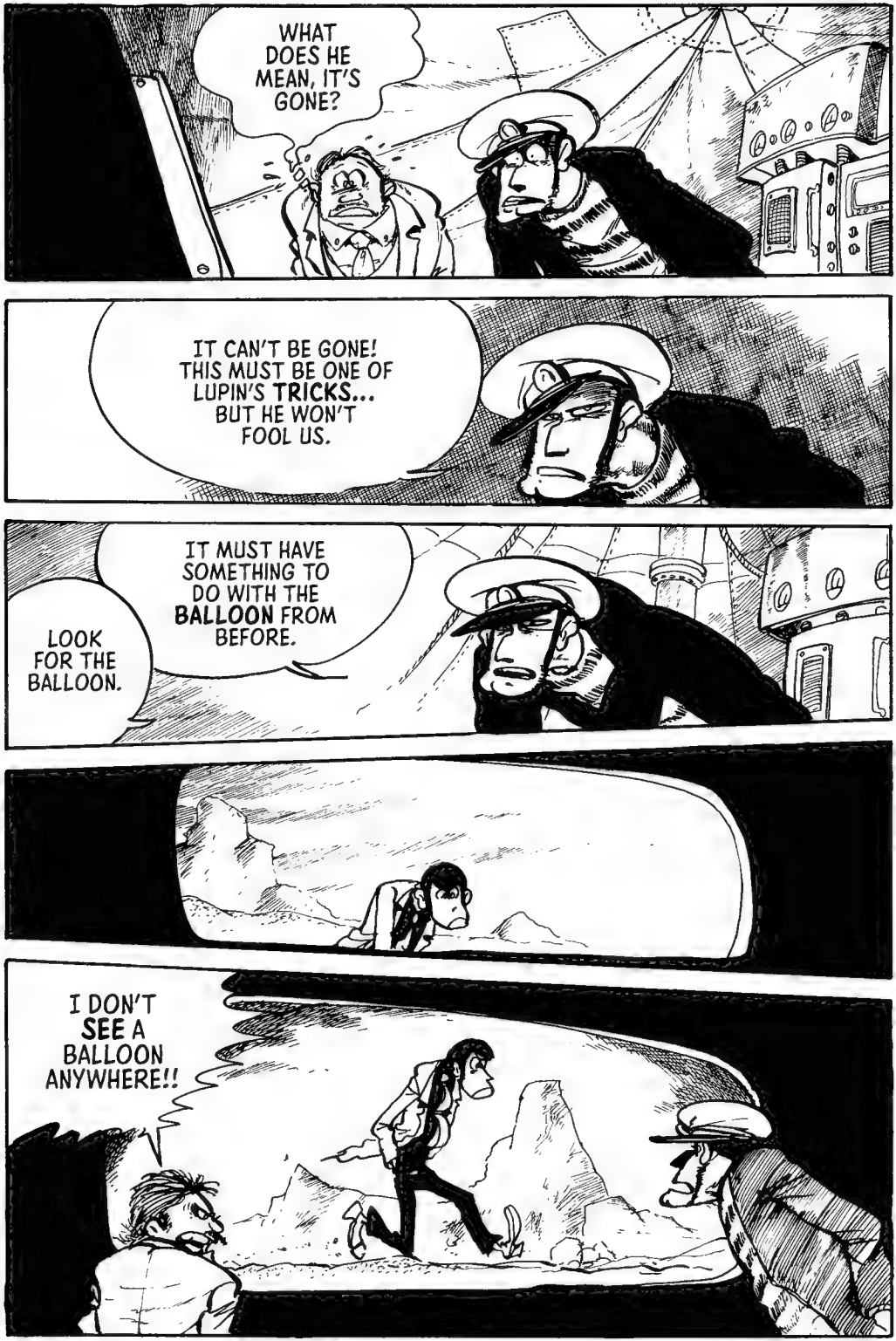

ALL RIGHT. THE CONTRAPTION'S WELL-BUILT. I'LL GIVE IT THAT.
SO THE SCRAP-PILE THINKS IT CAN OUTDO HUMANS, EH? OKAY, OKAY...

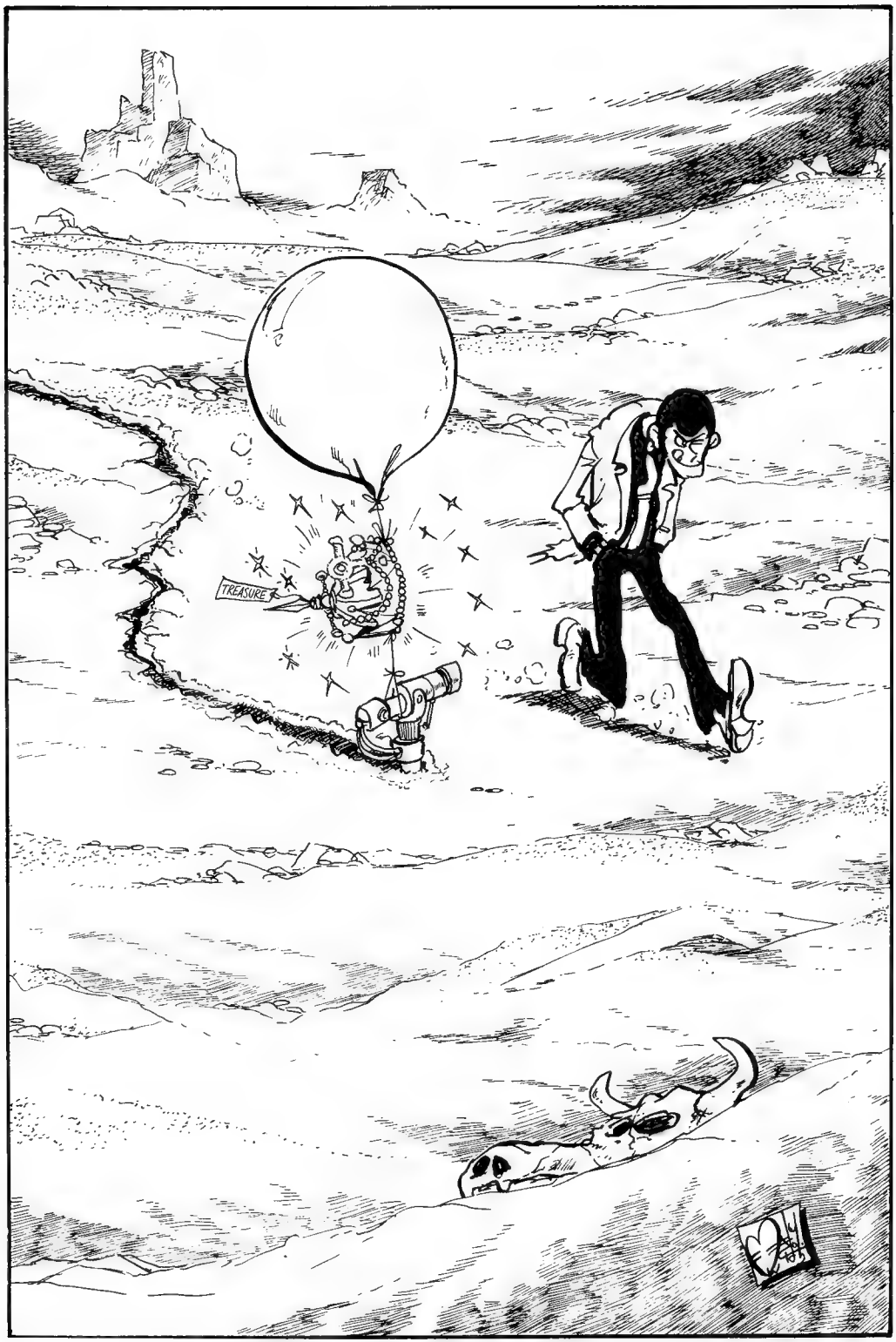

YOU'RE ON!!
WANNA SEE WHICH'LL WIN, HUMAN SMARTS OR A MACHINE BRAIN?
BUT IT WON'T WORK. THE MOMENT THAT CAMERA CATCHES SIGHT OF THE TREASURE, LUPIN IS AS GOOD AS **DEAD.**
I EXPECT HE'LL TRY TO **FLOAT** THE TREASURE AWAY WITH THAT BALLOON, SIR.
WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?

HERE I GO!!
I'LL ONLY GET ONE CHANCE. IT'S DO OR DIE!
DO SOMETHING! WE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THIS!!
HRN?! HE'S THROWING **SAND** ON THE CAMERA!


NO NEED TO WORRY, SIR. WE THOUGHT OF THIS. THE CAMERA WILL AUTOMATICALLY **REPOSITION** FURTHER AWAY AND OBSERVE LUPIN THROUGH A ZOOM LENS.

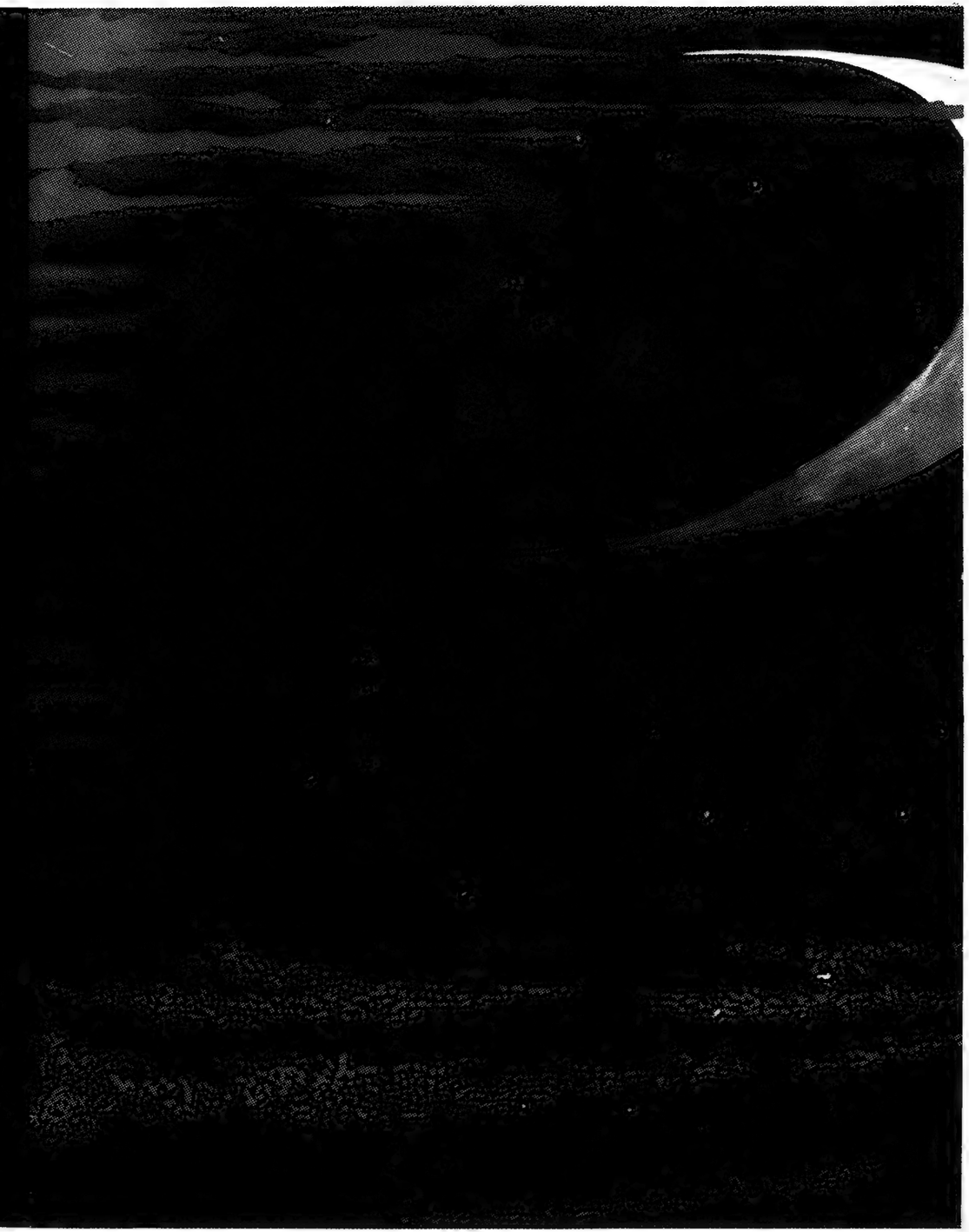

GONE!
IT'S GONE!
DAMMIT! SOMEONE GOT HERE BEFORE ME!!

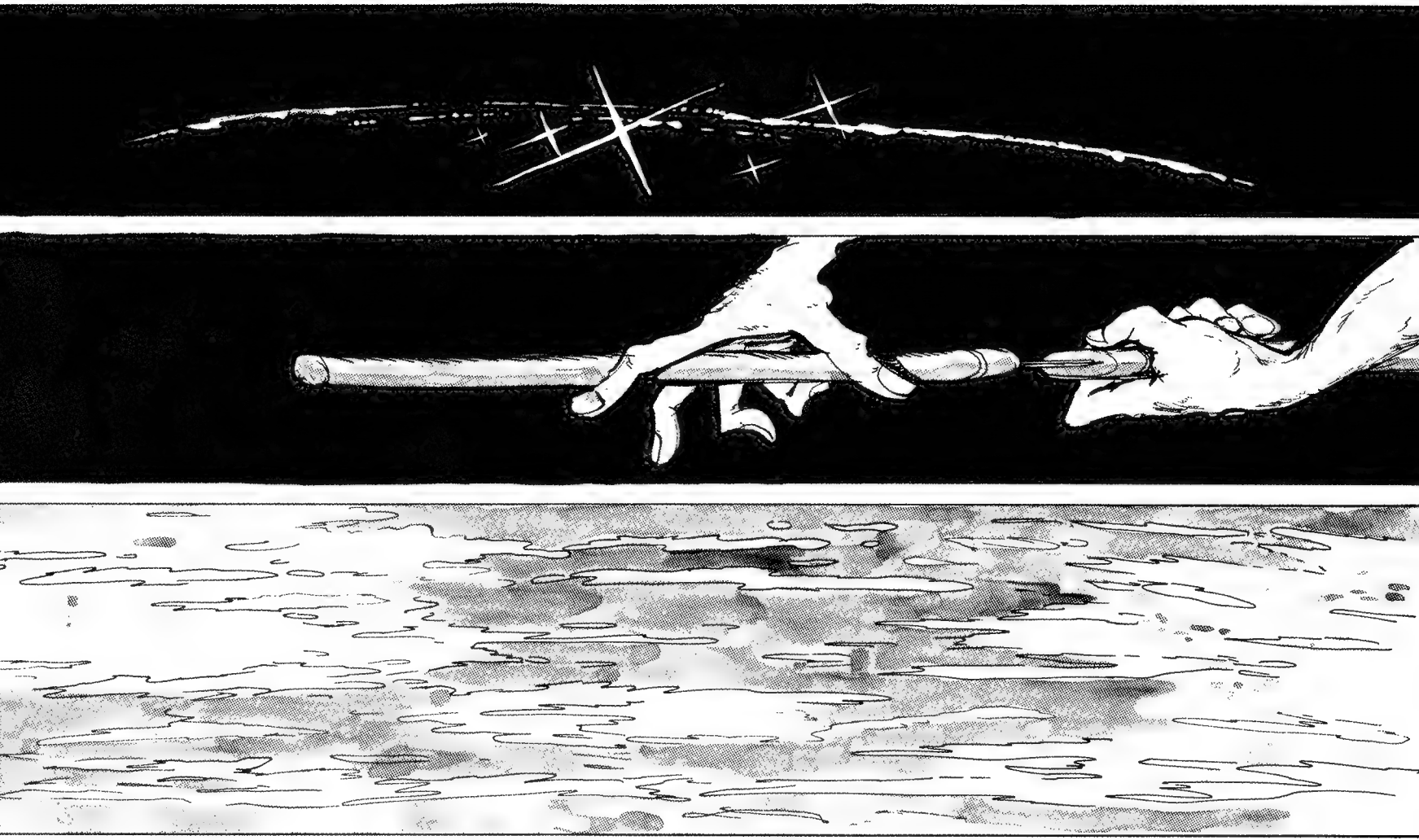

WHAT DOES HE MEAN, IT'S GONE?
IT CAN'T BE GONE! THIS MUST BE ONE OF LUPIN'S **TRICKS**... BUT HE WON'T FOOL US.
IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE **BALLOON** FROM BEFORE.
LOOK FOR THE BALLOON.
I DON'T **SEE** A BALLOON ANYWHERE!!

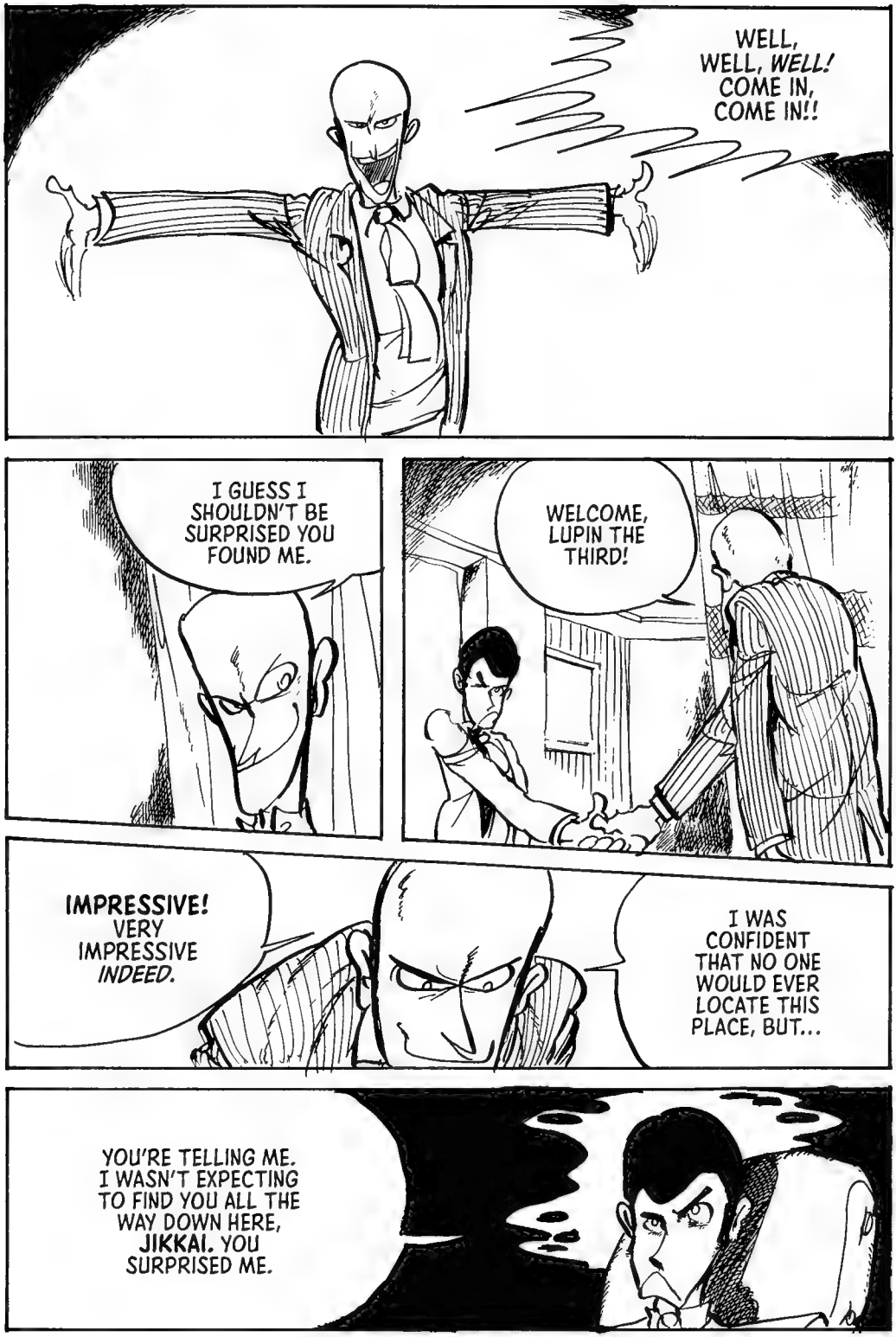


What Do You Think of This? / END

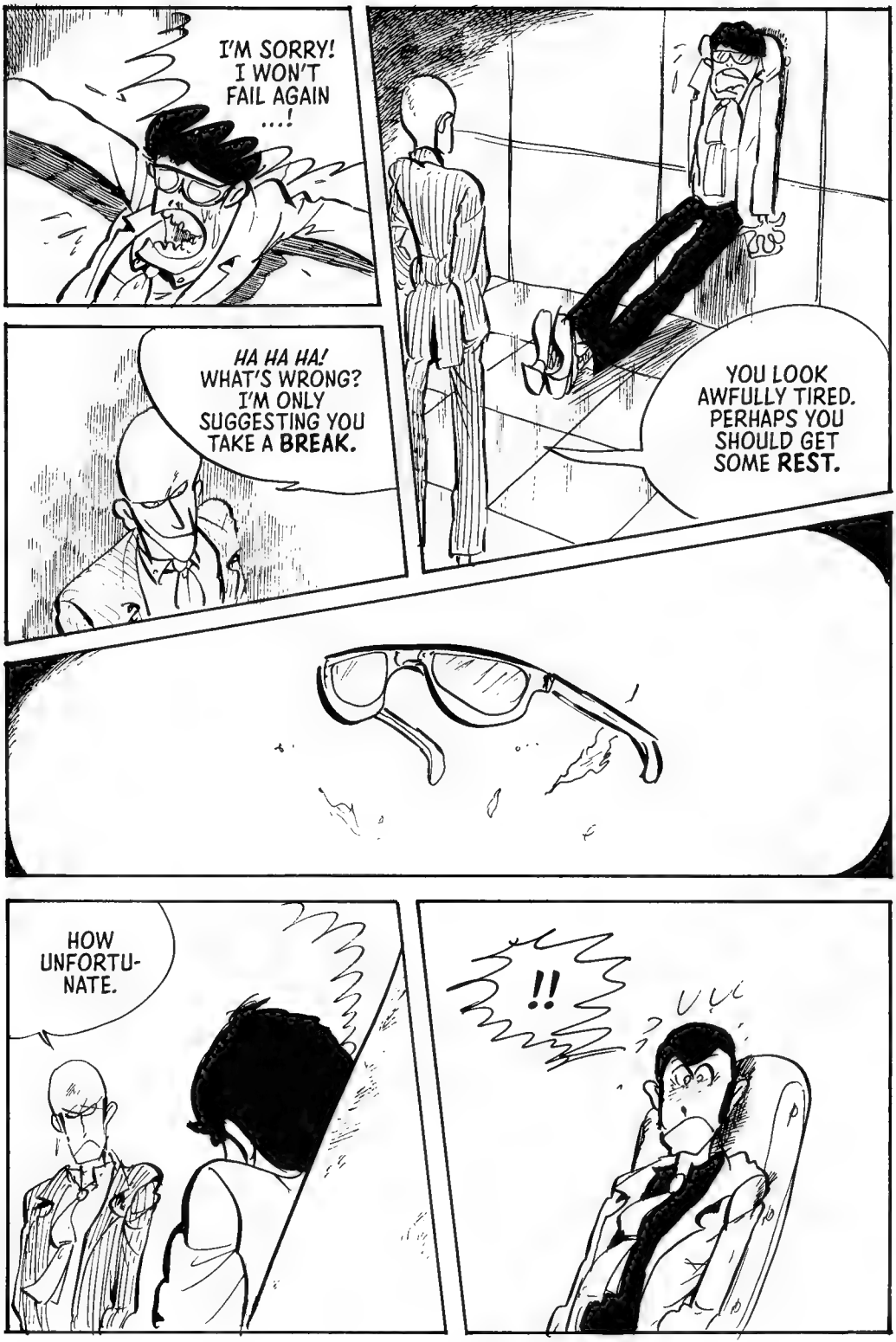
Great Goemon



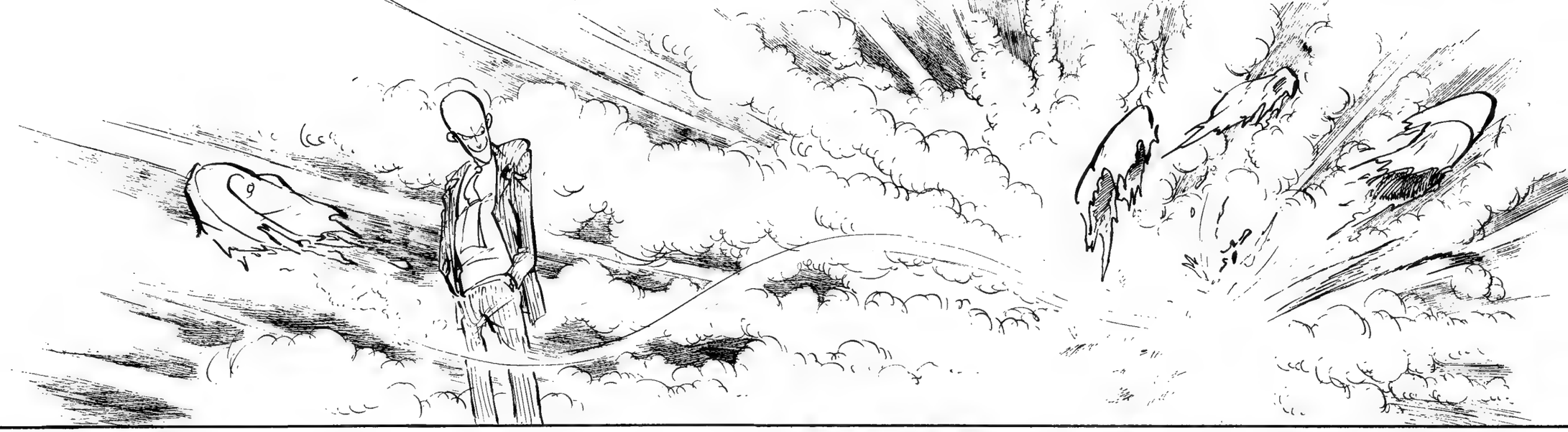


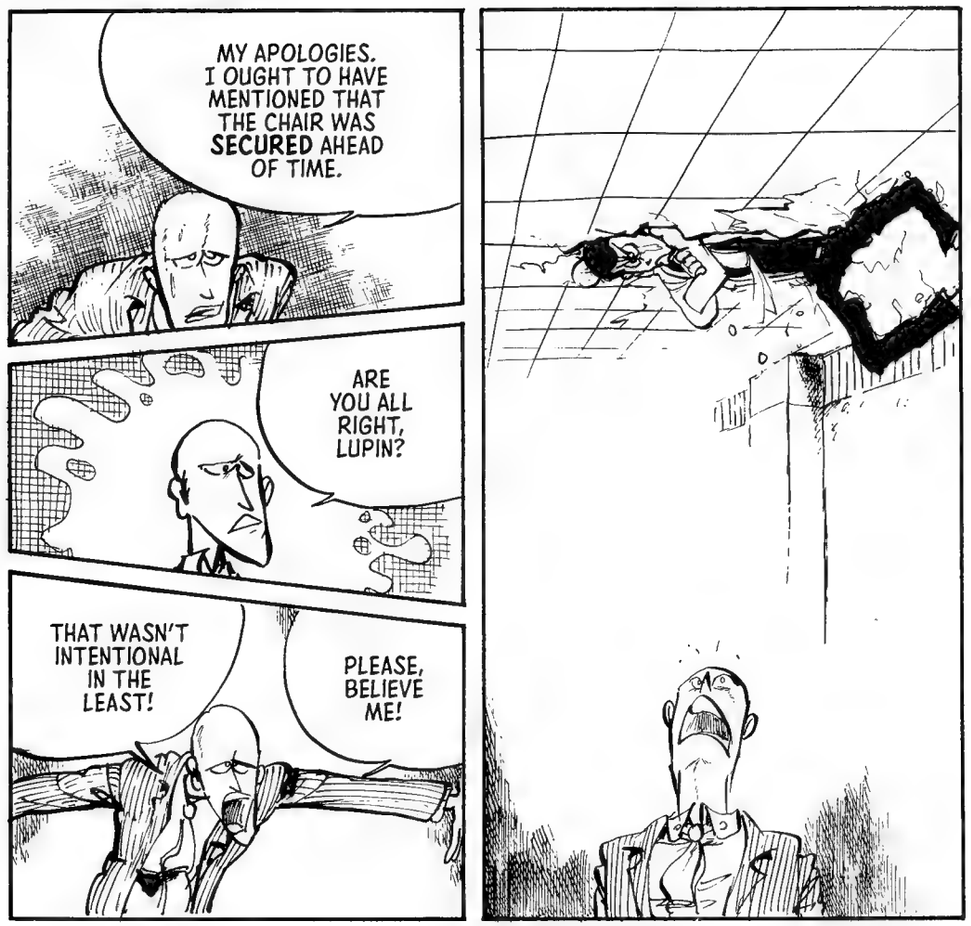

WELL, WELL, *WELL!* COME IN, COME IN!!
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED YOU FOUND ME.
WELCOME, LUPIN THE THIRD!
IMPRESSIVE! VERY IMPRESSIVE *INDEED.*
I WAS CONFIDENT THAT NO ONE WOULD EVER LOCATE THIS PLACE, BUT...
YOU'RE TELLING ME. I WASN'T EXPECTING TO FIND YOU ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE, **JIKKAI.** YOU SURPRISED ME.

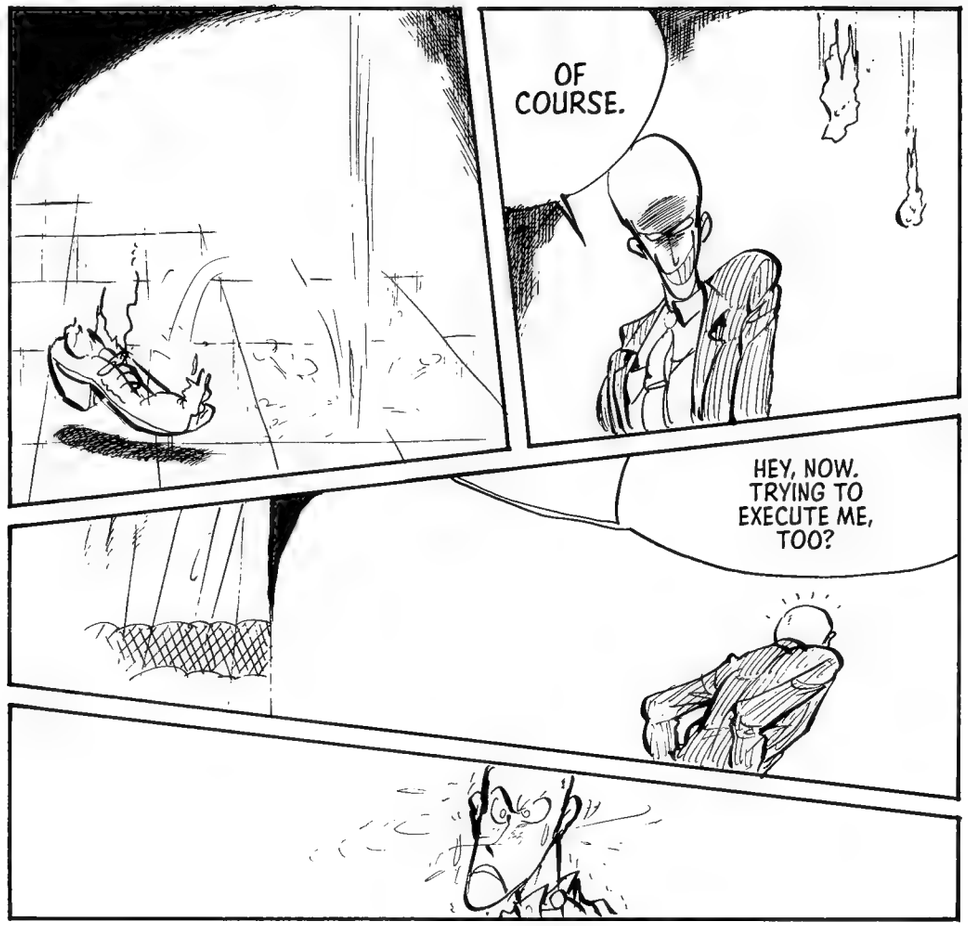
TELL ME, LUPIN. HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
OH, IT WASN'T ANYTHING TOO FANCY. I JUST SPOTTED YOUR SECRETARY THERE IN TOWN AND TAILED HIM...AND VOILÀ! HERE I AM.
HEH HEH HEH!
HOW CLUMSY OF HIM.
I DON'T NEED ANY CLUMSY SECRETARIES.
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME...!


I'M SORRY! I WON'T FAIL AGAIN ...!
YOU LOOK AWFULLY TIRED. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST.
HA HA HA! WHAT'S WRONG? I'M ONLY SUGGESTING YOU TAKE A BREAK.
HOW UNFORTU-NATE.
!!

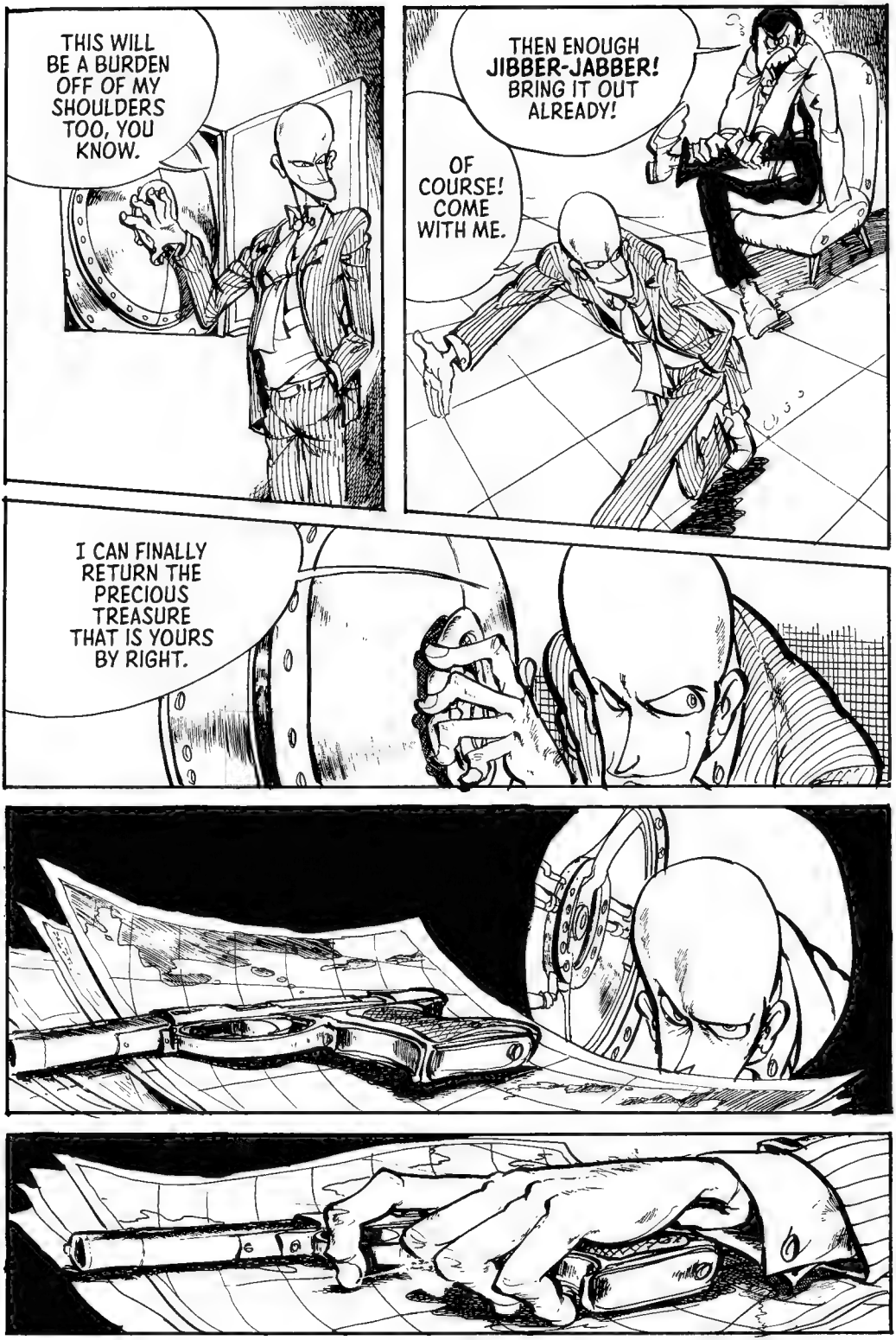
IT SEEMS HE ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED ONE OF MY ANTI-THEFT SECURITY DEVICES.
LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU EXECUTED AN INCOMPETENT UNDERLING.
HA HA HA HA! OH, PLEASE! YOU JEST. I'M NOT A CRUEL MAN!
SO. DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE "SECURITY DEVICES" IN THIS CHAIR?




MY APOLOGIES. I OUGHT TO HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE CHAIR WAS **SECURED** AHEAD OF TIME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LUPIN?
THAT WASN'T INTENTIONAL IN THE LEAST!
PLEASE, BELIEVE ME!

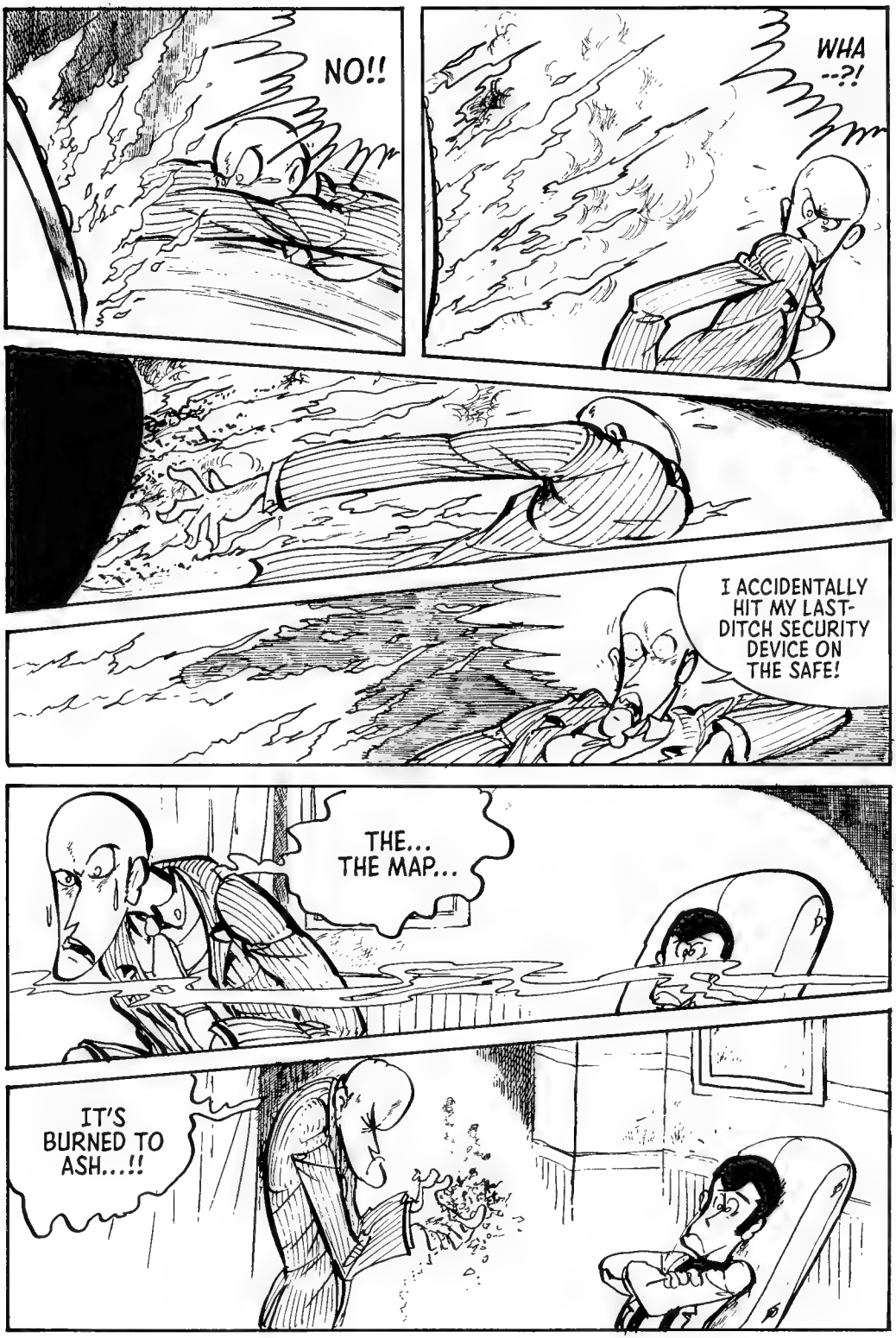

OF COURSE.
HEY, NOW. TRYING TO EXECUTE ME, TOO?

ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. LET'S GET TO **WHY** I'M HERE.
I TRULY **AM** VERY SORRY.
IT'S TIME WE HAD IT OUT.
AH, YES. OF COURSE, OF COURSE! I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND!
ONE THAT SHOWED THE LOCATION OF A **U-BOAT** LOADED WITH TREASURE THAT SANK DURING THE WAR.
IT WAS A **MAP OF THE OCEANS** YOU ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE, CORRECT?
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY! I'VE KEPT IT *PERFECTLY SAFE* PRECISELY FOR THIS DAY!
RIGHT.

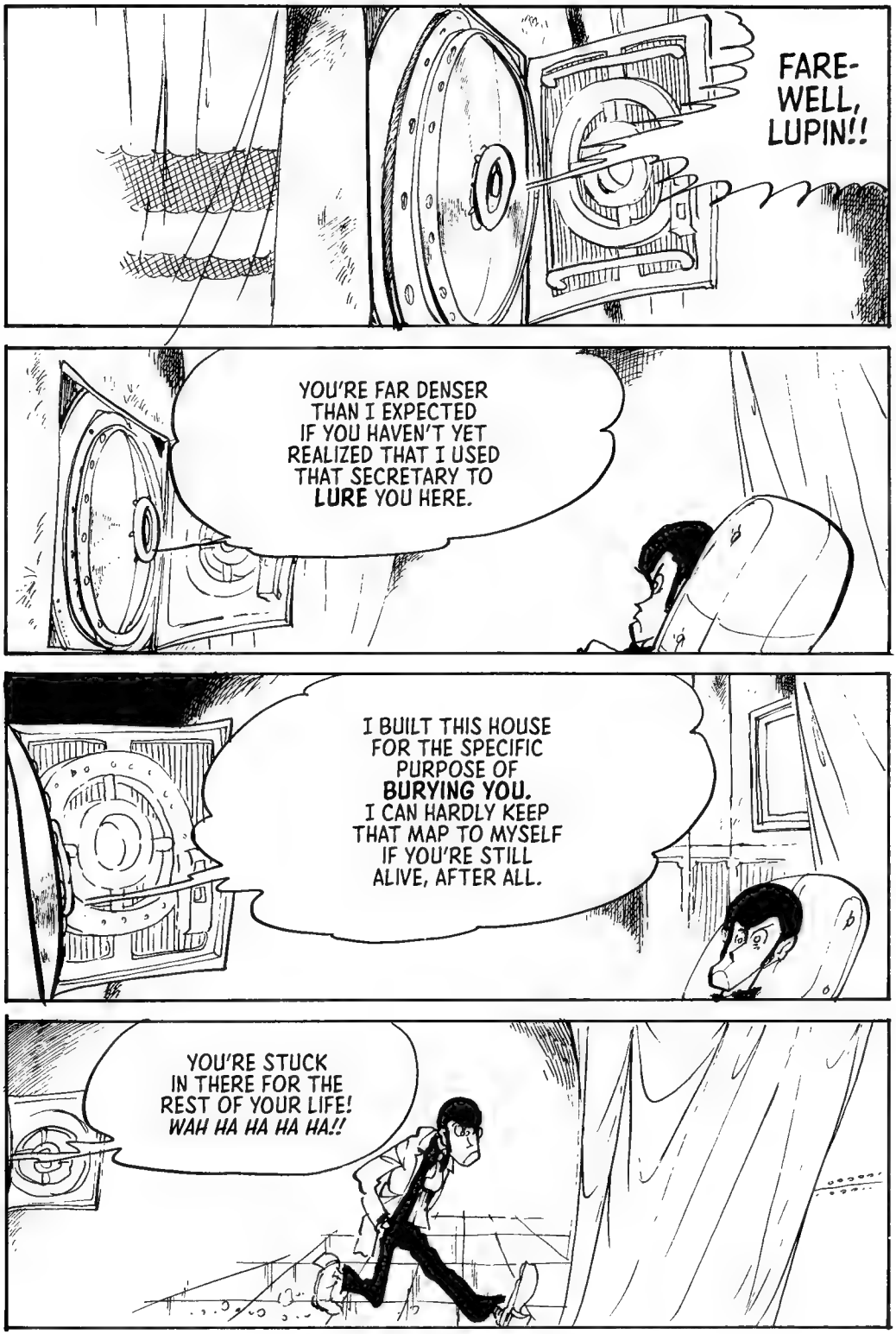

THIS WILL BE A BURDEN OFF OF MY SHOULDERS TOO, YOU KNOW.
THEN ENOUGH JIBBER-JABBER! BRING IT OUT ALREADY!
OF COURSE! COME WITH ME.
I CAN FINALLY RETURN THE PRECIOUS TREASURE THAT IS YOURS BY RIGHT.

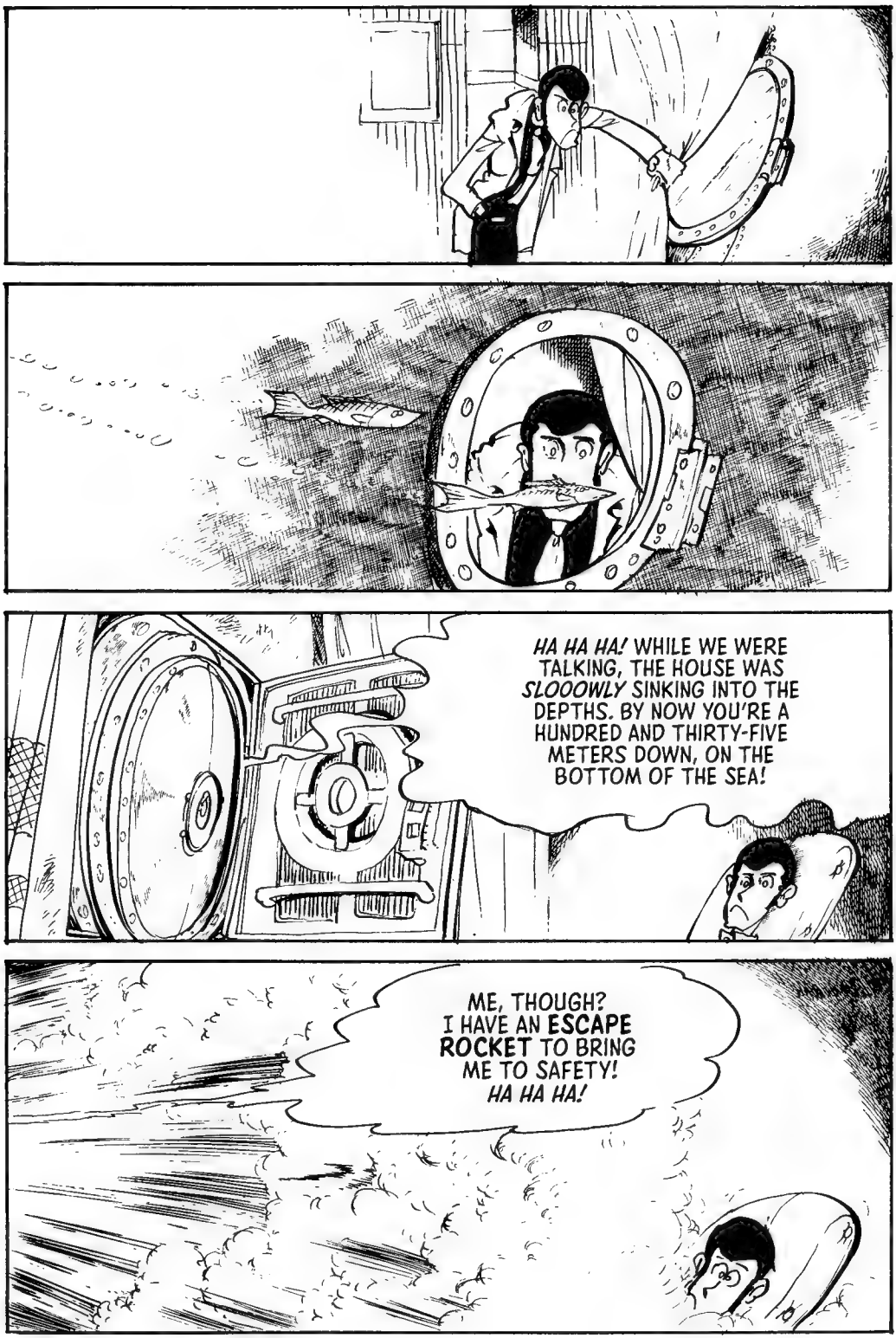
YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A **HEATER** STASHED IN THERE. IF YOU DO, I WOULDN'T SUGGEST TOUCHING IT.
UH-HUH! SO YOU MAKE YOUR **GOONS** DO IT FOR YOU, THEN!
I'D NEVER TRY ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
HA HA HA! COME ON NOW, DON'T BE SO PARANOID!

NOT TO TOUCH YOU!
THE FOOL! HOW COULD HE DO SUCH A THING? I TOLD THEM A DOZEN TIMES...
I'M SORRY, LUPIN. THIS WAS MY OVERSIGHT.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE. RIGHT AWAY.
QUIT STALLING! JUST GIVE ME BACK THE MAP ALREADY!!


NO!!
WHA --?!
I ACCIDENTALLY HIT MY LAST-DITCH SECURITY DEVICE ON THE SAFE!
THE... THE MAP...
IT'S BURNED TO ASH...!!

ENOUGH GAMES. WE BOTH KNOW THAT MAP WAS WRITTEN ON **FIREPROOF PAPER.** IT *CAN'T* BURN!
KYA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE...
NOW I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY YOU.
SORRY, SORRY. I SIMPLY HAD TO **TEST YOU** TO BE SURE YOU'RE THE REAL LUPIN, YOU SEE.
I'LL GET THE REAL MAP FOR YOU. THIS IS A DOUBLE-COMPARTMENT SAFE, YOU SEE.
AND KNOWING THAT YOU'RE THE REAL LUPIN, IT'S TIME...
TO SAY **GOOD-BYE.**


FARE-
WELL,
LUPIN!!
YOU'RE FAR DENSER THAN I EXPECTED IF YOU HAVEN'T YET REALIZED THAT I USED THAT SECRETARY TO **LURE** YOU HERE.
I BUILT THIS HOUSE FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF **BURYING YOU.** I CAN HARDLY KEEP THAT MAP TO MYSELF IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE STUCK IN THERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE! *WAH HA HA HA HA!!*


HA HA HA! WHILE WE WERE TALKING, THE HOUSE WAS SLOOOWLY SINKING INTO THE DEPTHS. BY NOW YOU'RE A HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE METERS DOWN, ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!
ME, THOUGH? I HAVE AN ESCAPE ROCKET TO BRING ME TO SAFETY! HA HA HA!

GROOSH

Great Goemon / END

SEE YOU AGAIN!

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LUPIN III THE THIRD
THICK AS THIEVES

THE CLASSIC MANGA BY MONKEY PUNCH

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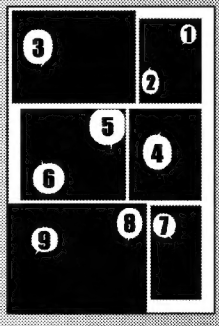
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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